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# NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

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LAND BIRDS.

VOL. III.



A  
HISTORY  
OF  
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

BY  
S. F. BAIRD, T. M. BREWER, AND R. RIDGWAY

LAND BIRDS

*ILLUSTRATED BY 64 COLORED PLATES AND 593 WOODCUTS.*

VOLUME III.



BOSTON  
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# NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

## RAPTORES.<sup>1</sup>—THE BIRDS OF PREY.

THE group of birds usually known as the *Raptores*, or Rapacious Birds, embraces three well-marked divisions, namely, the Owls, the Hawks, and the Vultures. In former classifications they headed the Class of Birds, being honored with this position in consequence of their powerful organization, large size, and predatory habits. But it being now known that in structure they are less perfectly organized than the *Passeres* and *Strisores*, birds generally far more delicate in organization, as well as smaller in size, they occupy a place in the more recent arrangements nearly at the end of the Terrestrial forms.

The complete definition of the order *Raptores*, and of its subdivisions, requires the enumeration of a great many characters; and that their distinguishing features may be more easily recognized by the student, I give first a brief diagnosis, including their simplest characters, to be followed by a more detailed account hereafter.

COMMON CHARACTERS. Bill hooked, the upper mandible furnished at the base with a soft skin, or "cere," in which the nostrils are situated. Toes, three before and one behind.

*Raptores.*

**Strigidæ.** Eyes directed forwards, and surrounded by radiating feathers, which are bounded, except anteriorly, by a circle or rim of differently formed, stiffer feathers. Outer toe reversible. Claws much hooked and very sharp. Legs and toes usually feathered, or, at least, coated with bristles. *The Owls.*

**Falconidæ.** Eyes lateral, and not surrounded by radiating feathers. Outer toe not reversible (except in *Pandion*). Claws usually hooked and sharp, but variable. Head more or less completely feathered. *The Hawks.*

**Cathartidæ.** Eyes lateral; whole head naked. Outer toe not reversible; claws slightly curved, blunt. *The Vultures.*

The preceding characters, though purely artificial, may nevertheless serve to distinguish the three families of *Raptores* belonging to the North American *Ornis*; a more scientific diagnosis, embracing a sufficient number of osteological, and accompanying anatomical characters, will be found further on.

<sup>1</sup> The whole of the systematic portion of the article on the *Raptores*, has been prepared by Mr. Ridgway; the Biographies, however, are furnished by Dr. Brewer, as usual. The outlines of the skulls and sterna of the *Strigidæ*, the skulls, sterna, and heads of the *Cathartidæ*, and the generic outlines of the *Falconidæ* and *Cathartidæ*, were drawn by Mr. Ridgway. S. F. BARNES.

The birds of prey — named *Accipitres* by some authors, and *Raptores* or *Falcones* by others, and very appropriately designated as the *Accipitrophæ* by Professor Huxley — form one of the most strongly characterized and sharply limited of the higher divisions of the Class of Birds. It is only recently, however, that their place in a systematic classification and the proper number and relation of their subdivisions have been properly understood. Professor Huxley's views will probably form the basis for a permanent classification, as they certainly point the way to one eminently natural. In his important paper entitled "On the Classification of Birds, and on the Taxonomic Value of the Modifications of certain Cranial Bones observable in that Class,"<sup>1</sup> this gentleman has dealt concisely upon the affinities of the order *Raptores*, and the distinguishing features of its subdivisions. In the following diagnoses the osteological characters are mainly borrowed from Professor Huxley's work referred to. Nitzsch's "Pterylography"<sup>2</sup> supplies such characters as are afforded by the plumage, most of which confirm the arrangement based upon the osteological structure; while important suggestions have been derived from McGillivray's "History of British Birds."<sup>3</sup> The Monographs of the *Strigidae* and *Falconidae*, by Dr. J. J. Kaup,<sup>4</sup> contain much valuable information, and were they not disfigured by a very eccentric system of arrangement they would approach nearer to a natural classification of the subfamilies, genera, and subgenera, than any arrangement of the lesser groups which I have yet seen.

The species of this group are spread over the whole world, tropical regions having the greatest variety of forms and number of species. The *Strigidae* are cosmopolitan, most of the genera belonging to both continents. The *Falconidae* are also found the world over, but each continent has subfamilies peculiar to it. The *Cathartidae* are peculiar to America, having analogous representatives in the Old World in the subfamily *Vulturinæ* belonging to the *Falconidae*. The *Gypogeranidae* are found only in South Africa, where a single species, *Gypogeranus serpentarius* (GMEL.), sole representative of the family, is found.

As regards the comparative number of species of this order in the two continents, the Old World is considerably ahead of the New World, which might be expected from its far greater land area. 581 species are given in Gray's Hand List,<sup>5</sup> of which certainly not more than 500, probably not more

<sup>1</sup> By Thomas H. Huxley, F. R. S., V. P. Z. S.; Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 1867, pp. 415-473.

<sup>2</sup> By G. C. F. Nitzsch. English edition, translated from the German by Dr. Philip Lillie, S. F. R. S., and published by the Ray Society of London, 1867.

<sup>3</sup> By William McGillivray, A. M., London, 1849.

<sup>4</sup> See Jardine's Contributions to Ornithology, London, 1849, p. 68; 1850, p. 51; 1851, p. 119; 1852, p. 103; and Transactions of the Zoological Society of London, 1862, p. 201.

<sup>5</sup> Hand List of Genera and Species of Birds, distinguishing those contained in the British Museum. By George Robert Gray, F. R. S., etc. Part I. *Accipitres*, *Fissirostres*, *Tenuirostres*, and *Dentirostres*. London, 1869.

than 450, are valid species, the others ranking as geographical races, or are synonymous with others; of this number about 350 nominal species are accredited to the Old World. America, however, possesses the greatest variety of forms, and the great bulk of the Old World Raptorial fauna is made up chiefly by a large array of species of a few genera which are represented in America by but one or two, or at most half a dozen, species. The genera *Aquila*, *Spizatus*, *Accipiter*, *Haliaetus*, *Falco*, *Circus*, *Aluco*, *Strix*, and *Buteo*, are striking examples. As regards the number of peculiar forms, America is considerably ahead.



FAMILY STRIGIDÆ. — THE OWLS.

CLAV. The clavicle weak and nearly cylindrical, about equal in length to the sternum. Anterior process of the coracoid projected forward so as to meet the clavicle, beneath the basal process of the scapula. Eggs variable in shape, usually nearly spherical, always immaculate, pure white.

The Owls constitute a very natural and sharply limited family, and though the species vary almost infinitely in the details of their structure, they all seem to fall within the limits of a single subfamily.

They have never yet been satisfactorily classified, and all the arrangements which have been either proposed or adopted are refuted by the facts developed upon a close study into the true relationship of the many genera. The divisions of "Night Owls," "Day Owls," "Horned Owls," etc., are purely artificial. This family is much more homogeneous than that of the *Falconidae*, since none of the many genera which I have examined seem to depart in their structure from the model of a single subfamily, though a few of them are somewhat aberrant as regards peculiarities in the detail of external form, or, less often, to a slight extent, in their osteological characters, though I have examined critically only the American and European species; and there may be some Asiatic, African, or Australian genera which depart so far from the normal standard of structure as to necessitate a modification of this view. In the structure of the sternum there is scarcely the least noticeable deviation in any genus<sup>1</sup> from the typical form. The appreciable differences appear to be only of generic value, such as a different proportionate length of the coracoid bones and the sternum, and width of the sternum in proportion to its length, or the height of its keel. The crania present a greater range of variation, and, if closely studied, may afford a clue to a more natural arrangement than the one which is here presented. The chief differences in the skulls of different genera consist in the degree of pneumaticity of the bones, in the form of the auricular bones, the comparative length and breadth of the palatines, and very great contrasts in the

[illegible]

contour. As a rule, we find that those skulls which have the greatest pneumaticity e. g. *Strix* and *Otus* are most depressed anteriorly, have the orbital septum thicker, the palatines longer and narrower, and a deeper longitudinal median valley on the superior surface, and *vice versa*.

The following classification is based chiefly upon external characters; but these are in most instances known to be accompanied by osteological peculiarities, which point to nearly the same arrangement. It is intended merely as an artificial table of the North American genera, and may be subjected to considerable modification in its plan if exotic genera are introduced.<sup>1</sup>

### Genera and Subgenera.

**A.** Inner toe equal to the middle in length; inner edge of middle claw pectinated. First quill longer than the third; all the quills with their inner webs entire, or without emargination. Tail emarginated. Feathers of the posterior face of the tarsus recurved, or pointed upwards.

1. **Strix.** No ear-tufts; bill light-colored; eyes black; tarsus nearly twice as long as middle toe; toes scantily haired. Size medium. Ear-conch nearly as long as the height of the skull, with an anterior operculum for only a portion of its length; symmetrical.

**B.** Inner toe decidedly or much shorter than the middle; inner edge of middle claw not pectinated. First quill shorter than the third; one to six outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. Tail rounded. Feathers of the posterior face of the tarsus not recurved but pointed downwards.

I. Nostril open, oval, situated in the anterior edge of the cere, which is not inflated.

a. Cere, on top, equal to, or exceeding, the chord of the culmen; much arched. Ear-conch nearly as long as the height of the skull, with the operculum extending its full length; asymmetrical.

2. **Otus.** One or two outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. With or without ear-tufts. Bill blackish; iris yellow. Size medium.

Ear-tufts well developed; only one quill emarginated. . . *Otus*.

Ear-tufts rudimentary; two quills emarginated. . . *Brachyotus*.

b. Cere, on top, less than the chord of the culmen; gradually ascending basally, or level (not arched). Ear-conch nearly the height of the skull, with the operculum extending only a part of its full length, or wanting entirely.

† Anterior edge of the ear-conch with an operculum; the two ears asymmetrical.

3. **Syrnium.** Five to six outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. Top of cere more than half the culmen. Without ear-tufts. Bill yellow; iris yellow or black. Size medium or large.

Six quills emarginated; toes densely feathered, the terminal scutellæ concealed; iris yellow. Size very large. *Scotiaptex*.

<sup>1</sup> My unpublished determinations of the North American species were furnished, by request, to Dr. Coues, for introduction into his "Key of North American Birds"; consequently the names used in these pages are essentially the same as those there employed.

Five quills emarginated; toes scanty feathered, the

fourth longest. Bill weak, light-colored. Ear-conch simple.

4. **Nyctale.** Two outer quills with inner webs emarginated. Top of cere less than half the culmen, level. Without ear-tufts. Bill yellow or blackish; iris yellow. Size small.

5. **Scops.** Two to five quills with inner webs emarginated; second to fifth longest. Bill weak, light-colored. Ear-conch elliptical, about one-third the height of the head, with a slightly elevated fringed anterior margin. Size small; ear-tufts usually well developed, sometimes rudimentary.

6. **Bubo.** Two to four outer quills with inner webs emarginated; third to fourth longest. Bill robust, black. Ear-conch elliptical, simple, from one third to one half the height of the skull. Size large. Ear-tufts well developed or rudimentary.

Ear-tufts well developed. Two to three outer quills with inner webs emarginated; lower tail-coverts not reaching end of the tail. Toes covered with short feathers, the claws exposed, and bill not concealed by the loreal feathers.

*Bubo.*

Ear-tufts rudimentary. Four outer quills with their inner webs emarginated; lower tail-coverts reaching end of the tail. Toes covered with long feathers, which hide the claws, and bill nearly concealed by the loreal feathers.

*Nyctea.*

†† Similar to the last, but the tail graduated, nearly equal to the wing.

7. **Surnia.** Four outer quills with inner webs emarginated. Third quill longest. Bill strong, yellow; ear-conch simple, oval, less than the diameter of the eye. Size medium; no ear-tufts.

II. Nostril, a small circular opening into the surrounding inflated membrane of the cere. Ear-conch small, simple, oval, or nearly round, without an operculum.

First quill shorter than the tenth.

8. **Glaucidium.** Third to fourth quills longest; four emarginated on inner webs. Tarsus about equal to the middle toe, densely feathered. Tail much more than half the wing, rounded. Bill and iris yellow. Size very small.

9. **Micrathene.** Fourth quill longest; four emarginated on inner webs. Tarsus a little longer than middle toe, scantily haired. Tail less than half the wing, even. Bill light (greenish?); iris yellow. Size very small.

First quill longer than sixth.

10. **Speotyto.** Second to fourth quills longest; three emarginated on inner webs. Tarsus more than twice as long as middle toe, closely feathered in front to the toes, naked behind. Tail less than half the wing, slightly rounded. Bill yellowish; iris yellow. Size small.

In their distribution, the Owls, as a family, are cosmopolitan, and most of the genera are found on both hemispheres. All the northern genera (*Nyctea*, *Surnia*, *Nyctale*, and *Scotiapterx*), and the majority of their species, are circumpolar. The genus *Glaucidium* is most largely developed within the tropics, and has numerous species in both hemispheres. *Otus brachyotus* and *Strix flammea* are the only two species which are found all over the world, — the former, however, being apparently absent in Australia. *Gymnoglaux*, *Speotyto*, *Micrathene*, and *Lophostrix* are about the only well-characterized genera peculiar to America. *Athene*, *Ketupa*, and *Phodilus* are peculiar to the Old World. The approximate number of known species (see Gray's Hand List of Birds, I, 1869) is about two hundred, of which two, as stated, are cosmopolitan; six others (*Surnia ulula*, *Nyctea scandiaca*, *Glaucidium passerinum*, *Syrnium cinereum*, *Otus vulgaris*, and *Nyctale tengmalmi*) are found in both halves of the Northern Hemisphere; of the remainder there are about an equal number peculiar to America and the Old World.

As regards the distribution of the Owls in the Nearctic Realm, a prominent feature is the number of the species (eighteen, not including races) belonging to it, of which six (*Micrathene whitneyi*, *Nyctale acadica*, *Syrnium nebulosum*, *S. occidentale*, *Scops asio*, and *S. flammeola*) are found nowhere else. *Speotyto cunicularia* and *Bubo virginianus* are peculiarly American species found both north and south of the equator, but in the two regions represented by different geographical races. *Glaucidium ferrugineum* and *G. infuscatum* (var. *gnoma*) are tropical species which overreach the bounds of the Neotropical Realm, — the former extending into the United States, the latter reaching to, and probably also within, our borders. Of the eighteen North American species, about nine, or one half (*Strix flammea* var. *pratincta*, *Otus brachyotus*, *O. vulgaris* var. *wilsonianus*, *Syrnium cinereum*, *Nyctale acadica*, *Bubo virginianus*, and *Scops asio*, with certainty, and *Nyctea scandiaca* var. *arctica*, and *Surnia ulula* var. *hudsonia*, in all probability), are found entirely across the continent. *Nyctale tengmalmi*, var. *richardsoni*, and *Syrnium nebulosum*, appear to be peculiar to the eastern portion, — the former to the northern regions, the latter to the southern. *Athene cunicularia* var. *hypugaea*, *Micrathene whitneyi*, *Glaucidium passerinum* var. *californicum*, *Syrnium occidentale*, and *Scops flammeola*, are exclusively western, all belonging to the southern portion of the Middle Province and Rocky Mountain region, and the adjacent parts of Mexico, excepting the more generally distributed *Speotyto cunicularia*, var. *hypugaea*, before mentioned. Anomalies in regard to the distribution of some of the species common to both continents, are the restriction of the American representative of *Glaucidium passerinum* to the western regions,<sup>1</sup> and of *Strix flammea* to the very southern and

<sup>1</sup> This case of the restriction of the American representative of a European or Western Palearctic species to the western half of the continent has parallel instances among other birds. The American form of *Falco sparverius* (var. *pallasius*), of *Circus cyaneus* (var. *canadensis*), *Pica canadensis* (var. *hudsonica* and var. *nuttalli*) and of *Egialitis caerulea* (var. *nivea*), are either



maritime portions of the United States, the European representatives of both species being generally distributed throughout that continent. On the other hand, the northwest-coast race of our *Scops asio* (*S. kennicotti*) seems to be nearly identical with the Japanese *S. semitorques* (Schlegel), which is undoubtedly referrible to the same species.

As regards their plumage, the Owls differ most remarkably from the Hawks in the fact that the sexes are invariably colored alike, while from the nest to perfect maturity there are no well-marked progressive stages distinguishing the different ages of a species. The nestling, or downy, plumage, however, of many species, has the intricate pencilling of the adult dress replaced by a simple transverse barring upon the imperfect downy covering. The downy young of *Nyctea scandiaca* is plain sooty-brown, and that of *Strix flammea* immaculate white.

In many species the adult dress is characterized by a mottling of various shades of grayish mixed with ochraceous or fulvous, this ornamented by a variable, often very intricate, pencilling of dusky, and more or less mixed with white. As a consequence of the mixed or mottled character of the markings, the plumage of the Owls is, as a rule, difficult to describe.

In the variations of plumage, size, etc., with differences of habitat, there is a wide range, the usually recognized laws<sup>1</sup> applying to most of those species which are generally distributed and resident where breeding. Of the eight species common to the Palearctic and Nearctic Realms, all but one (*Otus brachyotus*) are modified so as to form representative geographical races on the two continents. In each of these cases the American bird is much darker than the European, the brown areas and markings being not only more extended, but deeper in tint. The difference in this respect is so tangible that an experienced ornithologist can instantly decide to which continent any specimen belongs. Of the two cosmopolitan species one, *Otus brachyotus*, is identical throughout; the other is modified into geographical races in nearly every well-marked province of its habitat. Thus in the Palearctic Realm it is typical *Strix flammea*; in the Nearctic Realm it is var. *pratincta*; while Tropical America has at least three well-marked geographical races, the species being represented in Middle America by the var.

entirely restricted to the western portion, or else are much more abundant there than in the east. The European birds *C. alba*, *C. borealis*, *N. hyemalis*, and *Columba* have representatives only in the western portion of North America.

Instances of a similar relation between the plants of the Western Province of North America and those of Europe, and more striking likeness between the flora of the Eastern Region and that of Eastern Asia, are beautifully explained in Professor Gray's interesting and instructive paper entitled "Sequoia, and its History," an address delivered at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Dubuque, Iowa, August, 1872. The poverty in the species of tortoises, and richness in lizards, and the peculiarities of the ichthyological fauna, as well as absence of forms of Western North America and Europe, compared with Eastern North America and Eastern Asia, afford other examples of parallelism in other classes of the Animal Kingdom.

<sup>1</sup> See Baird, Am. Journ. Arts and Sciences, Vol. XLI, Jan. and March, 1866; Allen, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Cambridge, Vol. II, No. 3; and Ridgway, Am. Journ. Arts and Sciences, Vols. IV and V, Dec., 1872, and Jan., 1873.

*guatemalæ*, in South America by var. *perolata*, and in the West Indies by the var. *furcata*. The Old World has also numerous representative races, of which we have, however, seen only two, namely, var. *javanica* (Gm.), of Java, India, and Eastern Africa, and var. *delicatula* Gould of Australia, both of which we unhesitatingly refer to *S. flammea*.<sup>1</sup>

On the North American continent the only widely distributed species which do not vary perceptibly with the region are *Otus brachyotus* and *O. vulgaris* (var. *wilsonianus*). *Bubo virginianus*, *Scops asio*, and *Syrnium nebulosum* all bear the impress of special laws in the several regions of their habitat. Starting with the Eastern Province, and tracing either of these three species southward, we find it becoming gradually smaller, the colors deeper and more rufous, and the toes more scantily feathered. *Scops asio* reaches its minimum of size and maximum depth of color in Florida (var. *floridana*) and in Mexico (var. *enano*).

Of the other two I have not seen Florida specimens, but examples of both from other Southern States and the Lower Mississippi Valley region are much more rufous, and the *S. nebulosum* especially — smaller, with more naked toes. The latter species is darkest in Eastern Mexico (var. *sartori*), and most rufescent, and smallest, in Guatemala (var. *fulvescens*). In the middle region of the United States, *Scops asio* (var. *maccalli*) and *Bubo virginianus* (var. *arcticus*) are more grayish and more delicately pencilled than from other portions. In the northwest coast region they become larger and much more darkly colored, assuming the clove-brown or sooty tints peculiar to the region. The var. *kennicotti* represents *S. asio* in this region, and var. *pacificus* the *B. virginianus*. The latter species also extends its range around the Arctic Coast to Labrador, and forms a northern *littoral* race, the very opposite extreme in color from the nearly albinoscent examples of var. *arcticus* found in the interior of Arctic America.

A very remarkable characteristic of the Owls is the fact that many of the species exist in a sort of *dimorphic* condition, or that two plumages sufficiently unlike to be of specific importance in other cases belong to one species. It was long thought that these two phases represented two distinct species; afterwards it was maintained that they depended on age, sex, or season, different authors or observers entertaining various opinions on the subject; but it is now generally believed that every individual retains through life the plumage which it first acquires, and that young birds of both forms are often found in the same nest, their parents being either both of one form, or both of the other, or the two styles paired together.<sup>2</sup> The normal plumage, in these instances, appears to be grayish, the pattern distinct, the markings sharply defined, and the general appearance much like that of species which do not have the other plumage. The other plumage is a repla-

<sup>1</sup> For diagnoses of these geographical races of *Strix flammea*, see pp. 1339 and 1340.

<sup>2</sup> See Allen, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Cambridge, Vol. II, No. 3, pp. 338, 339, where these plumages are discussed at length.

cing of the grayish tints by a bright lateritious-rufous, the pencillings being at the same time less well defined, and the pattern of the smaller markings often changed. This condition seems to be somewhat analogous to *melanism* in certain *Falconidae*, and appears to be more common in the genera *Scops* and *Glaucidium* (in which it affects mainly the tropical species), and occurs also in the European *Syrnium aluco*. As studied with relation to our North American species, we find it only in *Scops asio* and *Glaucidium ferrugineum*. The latter, being strictly tropical in its habitat, is similarly affected throughout its range; but in the former we find that this condition depends much upon the region. Thus neither Dr. Cooper nor I have ever seen a red specimen from the Pacific coast, nor do I find any record of such an occurrence. The normal gray plumage, however, is as common throughout that region as in the Atlantic States. In the New England and Middle States the red plumage seems to be more rare in most places than the gray one, while toward the south the red predominates greatly. Of over twenty specimens obtained in Southern Illinois (Mt. Carmel) in the course of one winter, only one was of the gray plumage; and of the total number of specimens seen and secured at other times during a series of years, we can remember but one other gray one. As a parallel example among mammals, Professor Baird suggests the case of the Red-bellied Squirrels and Foxes of the Southern States, whose relationships to the more grayish northern and western forms appear to be about the same as in the present instance.

### GENUS **STRIX**, SAVIGNY.

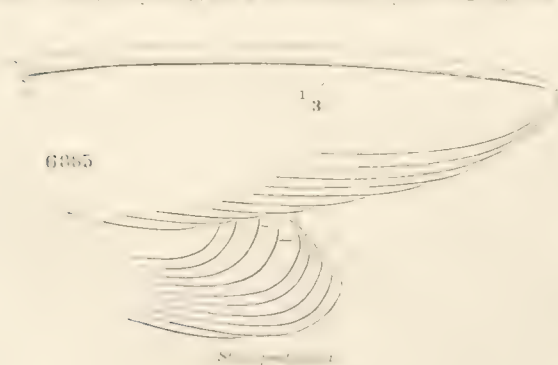
*Strix*, SAVIGNY, 1809. — LINN. 1758. (Type, *Strix ulysses*, LINN.)

*Stridula*, SELLYS-LONGCH, 1842.

*E. stridula*, WILSON & BIRCH, 1844.

*H. stridula*, NEUMANN.

GEN. CHAR. *Syrnium*-like. No ear-tuft; facial buff entirely continuous, very conspicuous. Wing very long, the first primary-feather longest, and all without emargination. Tail



short, emarginated. Bill elongated, compressed, regularly curved; top of the cere nearly equal to the culmen, straight, and somewhat depressed. Nostril open, oval, nearly horizontal. Eyes very small. Tarsus nearly twice as long as the middle toe, densely clothed with soft short feathers, those on the posterior face

scantly bristled; claws extremely sharp and long, the middle one with its inner edge pectinated. Ear-conch nearly

as long as the height of the head, with an anterior operculum, which does not extend its full length; the two ears symmetrical?

The species of *Strix* are distributed over the whole world, though only one of them is cosmopolitan. This is the common Barn Owl (*S. flammea*), the type of the genus, which is found in nearly every portion of the world, though in different regions it has experienced modifications which constitute geographical races. The other species, of more restricted distribution, are peculiar to the tropical portions of the Old World, chiefly Australia and South Africa.

#### Synopsis of the Races of *S. flammea*.

**S. flammea.** Face varying from pure white to delicate claret-brown; facial circle varying from pure white, through ochraceous and rufous, to deep black. Upper parts with the feathers ochraceous-yellow basally; this overlaid, more or less continuously, by a grayish wash, usually finely mottled and speckled, with dusky and white. Primaries and tail barred transversely, more or less distinctly, with distant dusky bands, of variable number. Beneath, varying from pure snowy white to tawny rufous, immaculate or speckled. Wing, 10.70–13.50.

Wing, 10.70–12.00; tail, 4.80–5.50; culmen, .75–.80; tarsus, 2.05–2.15; middle toe, 1.25–1.30. Tail with four dark bands, and sometimes a trace of a fifth. *Hab.* Europe and Mediterranean region of Africa. . . . . var. *flammea*.<sup>1</sup>

Wing, 12.50–14.00; tail, 5.70–7.50; culmen, .90–1.00; tarsus, 2.55–3.00. Tail with four dark bands, and sometimes a trace of a fifth. Colors lighter than in var. *flammea*. *Hab.* Southern North America and Mexico.

. . . . . var. *pratinnicola*.

Wing, 11.30–13.00; tail, 5.30–5.90; tarsus, 2.55–2.95. Colors of var. *flammea*, but more uniform above and more coarsely speckled below. *Hab.*

Central America, from Panama to Guatemala . . . . . var. *guatemalæ*.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Strix flammea*, var. *flammea*. *Strix flammea*, LINN. S. N. I, 133, 1766, et AUCT.-STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 178. *Strix alba*, SCOP. Ann. 1st, p. 21, 1768. — GILL. S. N. 293. — LATH. — DAUD. — LEE. and SHAW. *Strix guttata*, BREHM, Vog. Deutschl. p. 106, 1831. *Hab.* Europe and Africa.

<sup>2</sup> *Strix flammea*, var. *guatemalæ*, RIDGWAY. Central American specimens differ very appreciably from Mexican and North American examples, in being considerably darker-colored in the extreme phases of plumage. Eight of eleven specimens convey an impression of decided difference in this respect at a mere casual glance. The extremes of plumage in this series are as follows:—Darkest (No. 40,961, Chimandega, Nicaragua; F. Hicks): The dusky mottling of the upper parts is altogether darker than in any example from Mexico or northward, and prevails, with great uniformity, over the entire surface; the white specks are linear, instead of roundish. On the primaries and tail, the blackish and ochraceous are about equal in extent, the latter color forming five bands on the quills, and four on the tail. The facial circle is bright dark orange above the ears, and the portion below the ears continuous black; the face is reddish-white, strongly tinged with wine-brown, while the spot in front of the eye is deep black. The whole lower parts are deep orange-ochraceous, with numerous irregular specks of dusky, which posteriorly become broken or confused into ragged zigzag transverse mottlings, while on the lower tail-coverts they form irregular transverse bars. Wing-formula, 2, 1–3. Wing, 13.00; tail, 5.90; culmen, .85; tarsus, 2.90; middle toe, 1.50. Lightest (No. 41,252, ♂, San José, Costa Rica, Aug. 23, 1865; José C. Zeledon): The dark tint above, though prevalent, is a continuous wash of grayish, instead of a fine mottling of blackish and white; the white specks are nearly obsolete. The wings are superficially plain grayish, this overlaying the ground-color of ochraceous-orange; and have visible spots only on the primaries, near their



Wing, 11.70-12.00; tail, 4.80-5.20; tarsus, 2.40-2.75. Tail more even.

Colors generally paler, and more grayish. *Hab.* South America (Brazil,

Wing, 12.00-13.50; tail, 5.60-6.00; culmen, .85-.95; tarsus, 2.70-2.85; middle toe, 1.45-1.60. Colors as in var. *perlata*, but secondaries and tail nearly white, in abrupt contrast to the adjacent parts; tail usually without

Wing, 11.00; tail, 5.00; culmen, about .85; tarsus, 2.05-2.45; middle

what darker across the foreneck; the face white, with the ante-orbital spot claret-brown. Entire lower parts immaculate pure white. Wing-formula, 2, 1 = 3. Wing, 12.30; tail, 5.30; culmen, .70; tarsus, 2.75; middle toe, 1.45.

No. 24,283, Nicaragua, (Captain J. M. Dow,) is like the specimen just described, in the uniform coloring of the lower parts, however, an quite different, being ochraceous-orange, instead of pure white.

The Central American *S. flammica* differs from the Northern form in being darker, and differ from northern birds in the deeper dark mottling of the upper parts; the white specks very conspicuous, and usually sagittate. The facial circle deep black where it crosses the foreneck. The lower parts vary in color from nearly pure white to deep orange-rufous; the dark markings of the lower surface are larger, more angular, and more transverse than in true *pratincola*. The wing measures 11.30-13.00; tarsus, 2.55-2.95. The northern form varies from 12.50-13.00 (wing) and 2.50-2.85 (tarsus). It is thus seen that while these southern birds average smaller in general dimensions, they have actually larger feet, the average length of the tarsus being 2.80 in the Central American series, and only 2.60 in the northern series. This exactly coincides with the case of *Sturnella*, the *S. magna* var. *mexicana* of the same region being smaller bodied and shorter winged than var. *magna* of the United States, but with much larger feet, see p.

CONSP. WIEGM. ARCHIV. 267, 1844. — HARTT. SYST. IND. AZARA. p. 3. — MAX. BEITR. III, 263 (excl. syn.). — STRICKL. ORN. SYN. I, 1855, 180 (excl. syn.). *Strix flammea*, DARWIN, Zool. BOAG. 34. — SCHOMB. VERZ. FAUN. BRIT. GUIAN. p. 732. — SPINX, AV. BRAS. I, 21.

This is a still further differentiated or more appreciably modified race. It differs in smaller size (wing, 11.70-12.50; tail, 4.80-5.20; tarsus, 2.40-2.75) and more square tail, while the colors also present constant differences. The tail is much lighter compared with the wings, the bands narrower and more sharply defined, though the same in number.

Cuba Ois. p. 34. *Hab.* West Indies (Cuba and Jamaica).

This form is the most distinctly characterized of all the races of *S. flammica* which we have examined. It has the general plumage decidedly lighter and less rufous, while the secondaries and tail are abruptly lighter than the adjacent parts, and usually free from bands, though there are sometimes traces of them.

All the American races of *Strix flammica* differ very decidedly from the European form (var. *flammea*) in much larger size. The differences in color are not so appreciable, and there is hardly any certain difference in this respect. The extreme phases, however, appear to be darker in the var. *flammea* than in the var. *pratincola*. The supposed differences in the character of the feathers fringing the operculum, insisted on by MacGillivray (History of British Birds, III, 1840, p. 473), I am unable to appreciate, for I cannot find that they differ in the least in the two races. That excellent ornithologist states that in the American "species" the feathers of the operculum are reduced to a simple tube, having neither filaments nor shaft, while in the European bird they are perfect feathers, with all their parts complete. Though this may have been the case with the one or more specimens of *pratincola* examined by Mr. MacGillivray, I have yet to see an American specimen which has not the feathers of the operculum just as per-



toe, 1.30–1.40. Colors of var. *pratincola*, but less of the ochraceous, with a greater prevalence of the gray mottling. Tail with four dark bands.

*Hab.* Australia . . . . . var. *delicatula*.<sup>1</sup>

Wing, 11.00–11.70; tail, 5.10–5.40; culmen, .85–.90; tarsus, 2.30–2.45; middle toe, 1.35–1.45. Same colors as var. *delicatula*. Tail with four dark bands (sometimes a trace of a fifth). *Hab.* India and Eastern

Africa . . . . . var. *javanica*.<sup>2</sup>

## ***Strix flammea*, var. *pratincola*, BONAP.**

### **AMERICAN BARN OWL.**

*Strix pratincola*, BONAP. List, 1838, p. 7. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 1844, 31, pl. xiii. f. 28. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 2. — CASSIN, B. Cal. & Tex. 1854, p. 176. — NALB. P. R. Rep. VI, iv, 1857, 76. — HEERM. do. VII, 1857, 34. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 47. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. (P. A. N. S. Philad. 1866), 13. — SCH. P. Z. S. 1859, 390 (Oaxaca). — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 330 (Texas). — ? BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. 1867, 65 (Bahamas). *Strix perlata*, GRAY, List Birds Brit. Mus. 1848, 109 (not *S. perlata* of LICHT. !). — IB. Hand List, I, 1869, 52. — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Pr. Zool. Soc. Lond. IV, 1859, 247. *Strix americana*, AUD. Synop. 1839, 24. — BREWER, Wilson's Am. Orn. 1852, 687. *Strix flammea*, MAX. Reise Bras. II, 1820, 265. — WILS. Am. Orn. 1808, pl. I, f. 2. — JAMES, ed. Wilson's Am. Orn. I, 1831, 111. — AUD. B. Am. 1831, pl. clxxi. — IB. Orn. Biog. II, 1831, 403. — SPIX, Av. Bras. I, 21. — VIG. Zool. Jour. III, 138. — IB. Zool. Beech. Voy. p. 16. — BONAP. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. II, 38. — IB. Isis, 1832, 1140; Consp. Av. p. 55. — GRAY, List Birds Brit. Mus. 1844, 54. — NUTT. Man. 1833, 139. *Ulula flammea*, JARDINE, ed. Wilson's Am. Orn. II, 1832, 264. *Strix flammea*, var. *americana*, COUES, Key, 1872, 201.

**CHAR.** *Average plumage.* Ground-color of the upper parts bright orange-ochraceous; this overlaid in cloudings, on nearly the whole of the surface, with a delicate mottling of blackish and white; the mottling continuous on the back and inner scapulars, and on the ends of the primaries more faint, while along their edges it is more in the form of fine dusky dots, thickly sprinkled. Each feather of the mottled surface (excepting the secondaries and primaries) has a medial dash of black, enclosing a roundish or cordate spot of white near the end of the feather; on the secondaries and primaries, the mottling is condensed into obsolete transverse bands, which are about four in number on the former and five on the latter; primary coverts deeper orange-rufous than the other portions, the mottling principally at their ends. Tail orange-ochraceous, finely mottled — most densely terminally — with dusky, fading into whitish at the tip, and crossed by about five distinct bands of mottled dusky. Face white, tinged with wine-red; an ante-orbital spot of dark claret-brown, this narrowly surrounding the eye; facial circle, from forehead down to the ears (behind which it is white for an inch or so) soft orange-ochraceous, similar to the ground-color of the upper parts; the lower half (from ears across the throat) deeper ochraceous, the tips of the feathers blackish, the latter sometimes predominating. Lower parts snowy-white, but this more or less over-

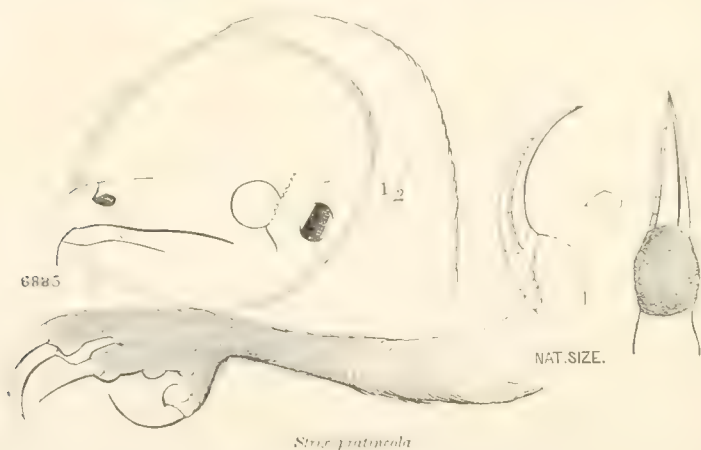
<sup>1</sup> *Strix flammea*, var. *delicatula*. *Strix delicatula*, GOULD, P. Z. S. 1836, 140. — IB. B. Australia, I, pl. xxxi. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. 1855, 180. *Hab.* Australia.

<sup>2</sup> *Strix flammea*, var. *javanica*. *Strix javanica*, GMEL. S. N. I, 295, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 64, and Gen. Hist. I, 357. — HORSF. L. Trans. XIII, 139. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 5, pl. xv. — SYKES, P. Comm. Zool. Soc. pl. ii, 81. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 180. *Phodilus javanicus*, BLYTH, Journ. As. Soc. Beng. XIX, 513. *Strix flammea*, PEARSON & BLYTH. *Hab.* Java and Southern India, and Eastern Africa.

laid with a tinge of fine orange-ochraceous, lighter than the tint of the upper parts; and, excepting on the jugulum, anal region, and crissum, with numerous minute but distinct specks of black; under surface of wings delicate yellowish-white, the lining sparsely sprinkled with black dots; inner webs of primaries with transverse bars of mottled dusky near their ends.

*Extreme plumages.* Darkest (No. 6,884, ♂, Tejon Valley, Cal.; "R. S. W." Dr. Heermann): There is no white whatever on the plumage, the lower parts being continuous light ochraceous; the tibiae have numerous round spots of blackish. Lightest (No. 6,885, same locality): Face and entire lower parts immaculate snowy-white; facial circle white, with the tips of the feathers orange; the secondaries, primaries, and tail show no bars, their surface being uniformly and finely mottled.

*Measurements* (♂, 6,884, Tejon Valley, Cal.; Dr. Heermann). Wing, 13.00; tail, 5.70; culmen, .90; tarsus, 2.50; middle toe, 1.25. Wing-formula, 2, 1-3. Among the



very numerous specimens in the collection, there is not one marked ♀. The extremes of a large series are as follows: Wing, 12.50-14.00; tail, 5.70-7.50; culmen, .90-1.10; tarsus, 2.55-3.00.

*HAB.* More southern portions of North America, especially near the sea-coast, from the Middle States southward, and along the southern border to California; whole of Mexico. In Central America appreciably modified into var. *guatemalae*. In South America replaced by var. *perlata*, and in the West Indies by the quite different var. *furcata*.

*Localities:* Oaxaca (SCL. P. Z. S. 1859, 390); Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 330); Arizona (CORES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 49); ? Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. 1867, 65). Kansas (SNOW, List of B. Kansas); Iowa (ALLEN, Iowa Geol. Report, II, 424).

The variations of plumage noted above appear to be of a purely individual nature, since they do not depend upon the locality; nor, as far as we can learn, to any considerable extent, upon age or sex.

*HABITS.* On the Atlantic coast this bird very rarely occurs north of Pennsylvania. It is given by Mr. Lawrence as very rare in the vicinity of New York, and in three instances, at least, it has been detected in New England. An individual is said, by Rev. J. H. Linsley, to have been taken in 1843, in Stratford, Conn.; another was shot at Sachem's Head in the same State, October 28, 1865; and a third was killed in May, 1868, near Springfield, Mass.

In the vicinity of Philadelphia the Barn Owl is not very rare, but is more common in spring and autumn than in the summer. Its nests have been found in hollow trees near marshy meadows. Southward it is more or less common as far as South Carolina, where it becomes more abundant, and its range then extends south and west as far as the Pacific. It is quite plentiful in Texas and New Mexico, and is one of the most abundant birds of California. It was not met with by Dr. Woodhouse in the expedition to the Zuñi River, but this may be attributed to the desolate character of the country through which he passed, as it is chiefly found about habitations, and is never met with in wooded or wild regions.

*Strix flammea*

Dr. Heermann and Dr. Gambel, who visited California before the present increase in population, speak of its favorite resort as being in the neighborhood of the Missions, and of its nesting under the tiled roofs of the houses. The latter also refers to his finding numbers under one roof, and states that they showed no fear when approached. The propensity of the California bird to drink the sacred oil from the consecrated lamps about the altars of the Missions was frequently referred to by the priests, whenever any allusion was made to this Owl. Dr. Gambel also found it about farm-houses, and occasionally in the prairie valleys, where it obtains an abundance of food, such as mice and other small animals.

Dr. Heermann, in a subsequent visit to the State, mentions it as being a very common bird in all parts of California. They were once quite numerous among the hollow trees in the vicinity of Sacramento, but have gradually disappeared, as their old haunts were one by one destroyed to make way for the gradual development and growth of that city. Dr. Heermann found a large number in the winter, sheltered during the day among the reeds of Suisun Valley. They were still abundant in the old Catholic Missions, where they frequented the ruined walls and towers, and constructed their nests in the crevices and nooks of those once stately buildings, now falling to decay. These ruins were also a shelter for innumerable bats, reptiles, and vermin, which formed an additional attraction to the Owls.

Dr. Cooper speaks of finding this Owl abundant throughout Southern California, especially near the coast, and Dr. Newberry frequently met with it about San Francisco, San Diego, and Monterey, where it was more com-

more than any other species. He met with it on San Pablo Bay, inhabiting holes in the perpendicular cliffs bordering the south shore. It was also found in the Klamath Basin, but not in great numbers.

Mr. J. H. Clark found the Barn Owl nesting, in May, in holes burrowed into the bluff banks of the Rio Frio, in Texas. These burrows were nearly horizontal, with a considerable excavation near the back end, where the eggs were deposited. These were three or four in number, and of a dirty white. The parent bird allowed the eggs to be handled without manifesting any concern. There was no lining or nest whatever. Lieutenant Couch found them common on the Lower Rio Grande, but rare near Monterey, Mexico. They were frequently met with living in the sides of large deep wells.

Dr. Coues speaks of it as a common resident species in Arizona. It was one of the most abundant Owls of the Territory, and was not unfrequently to be observed at midday. On one occasion he found it preying upon Black-birds, in the middle of a small open reed swamp.

It is not uncommon in the vicinity of Washington, and after the partial destruction of the Smithsonian Building by fire, for one or two years a pair nested in the top of the tower. It is quite probable that the comparative rarity of the species in the Eastern States is owing to their thoughtless destruction, the result of a short-sighted and mistaken prejudice that drives away one of our most useful birds, and one which rarely does any mischief among domesticated birds, but is, on the contrary, most destructive to rats, mice, and other mischievous and injurious vermin.

Mr. Audubon mentions two of these birds which had been kept in confinement in Charleston, S. C., where their cries in the night never failed to attract others of the species. He regards them as altogether crepuscular in habits, and states that when disturbed in broad daylight they always fly in an irregular and bewildered manner. Mr. Audubon also states that so far as his observations go, they feed entirely on small quadrupeds, as he has never found the remains of any feathers or portions of birds in their stomachs or about their nests. In confinement it partakes freely of any kind of flesh.

The Cuban race (var. *furcata*), also found in other West India islands, is hardly distinguishable from our own bird, and its habits may be presumed to be essentially the same. Mr. Gosse found the breeding-place of the Jamaica Owl at the bottom of a deep limestone pit, in the middle of October; there was one young bird with several eggs. There was not the least vestige of a nest; the bird reposed on a mass of half-digested hair mingled with bones. At a little distance were three eggs, at least six inches apart. On the 12th of the next month he found in the same place the old bird sitting on four eggs, this time placed close together. There was still no nest. The eggs were advanced towards hatching, but in very different degrees, and an egg ready for deposition was found in the oviduct of the old bird.

An egg of this Owl, taken in Louisiana by Dr. Trudeau, measured 1.69



inches in length by 1.38 in breadth. Another, obtained in New Mexico, measures 1.69 by 1.25. Its color is a dirty yellowish-white, its shape an oblong oval, hardly more pointed at the smaller than at the larger end.

An egg from Monterey, California, collected by Dr. Canfield, measures 1.70 inches in length by 1.25 in breadth, of an oblong-oval shape, and nearly equally obtuse at either end. It is of a uniform bluish-white. Another from the Rio Grande is of a soiled or yellowish white, and of the same size and shape.

### GENUS **OTUS**, CUVIER.

*Otus*, CUV. Reg. An. 1799. (Type, *Strix otus*, LINN.)

*Asia*, SWAINS. 1831 (see BRISSON, 1760).

*Brachyotus*, GOULD, P. Z. S. 1837, 10. (Type, *Strix brachyotus*.)

*Eptotis*, KEYS. & BL. 1840 (see KAUP, 1829).

CHAR. Size medium. Ear-tufts well developed or rudimentary; head small; eyes small. Cere much arched, its length more than the chord of the culmen. Bill weak, compressed. Only the first, or first and second, outer primary with its inner web emarginated. Tail about half the wing, rounded. Ear-conch very large, gill-like, about as long as the height of the skull, with an anterior operculum, which extends its full length, and bordered posteriorly by a raised membrane; the two ears asymmetrical.

### Species and Varieties.

**A. *Otus*, Cuvier.** Ear-tufts well developed; outer quill only with inner web emarginated.

Colors blackish-brown and buffy-ochraceous, — the former predominating above, where mottled with whitish; the latter prevailing beneath, and variegated with stripes or bars of dusky. Tail, primaries, and secondaries, transversely barred (obsoletely in *O. stygius*).

1. ***O. vulgaris*.** Ends of primaries normal, broad; toes feathered; face ochraceous.

Dusky of the upper parts in form of longitudinal stripes, contrasting conspicuously with the paler ground-color. Beneath with ochraceous prevalent; the markings in form of longitudinal stripes, with scarcely any transverse bars. *Hab.* Europe and considerable part of the Old World . . . . . var. *vulgaris*.<sup>1</sup>

Dusky of the upper parts in form of confused mottling, not contrasting conspicuously with the paler ground-color. Beneath with the ochraceous overlaid by the whitish tips to the feathers; the markings in form of transverse bars, which are broader than the narrow medial streak. Wing, 11.50–12.00; tail, 6.00–6.20; culmen, .65; tarsus, 1.20–1.25; middle toe, 1.15. Wing-formula, 2, 3–4–1. *Hab.* North America . . . . . var. *wilsonianus*.

2. ***O. stygius*.**<sup>2</sup> Ends of primaries narrow, that of the first almost falcate; toes entirely naked; face dusky, or with dusky prevailing.

<sup>1</sup> *Otus vulgaris*. *Strix otus*, LINN. S. N. p. 132, 1766. — *Asio otus*, LESS. STRICKL. *Bubo otus*, SAVIGN. *Uta otus*, MACGILL. *Otus vulgaris*, FLEM. Brit. An. p. 56, 1828, et AUCT. *O. europæus*, STEPH. 1. *O. albicollis*, DAUD. *O. italicus*, DAUD. *O. communis*, LESS. *O. aurita*, MONT. *O. asio*, LEACH. *O. sylvestris*, *O. arboreus*, and *O. gracilis*, BREHM.

<sup>2</sup> *Otus stygius*. *Nyctalops stygius*, WAGL. Isis, 1832 p. 1221. — GRAY, Gen. B. p. 6, ed. 2.

Alone, the crown, throat, and breast are white, the latter with sparse longitudinal streaks. Beneath with the blackish ground-color of longitudinal stripes, which throw off occasional transverse bars toward the sides of the tail-feathers. Wing, 13.00; tail, 6.80; culmen, .90; tarsus, 1.55; middle toe, 1.50. Wing-formula, 2, 3-1, 1. *Hab.* South America.

**B. BRACHYOTUS**, Gould (1837). Similar to *Otus*, but ear-tufts rudimentary, and the second quill as well as the first with the inner web emarginated.

Colors ochraceous, or white, and clear dark brown, without shadings or middle tints. Beneath with narrow longitudinal dark stripes upon the whitish or ochraceous ground-color; crown and neck longitudinally striped with black, brown, and ochraceous.

3. **O. brachyotus**. Wings and tail nearly equally spotted and banded with ochraceous and dark brown. Tail with about six bands, the ochraceous terminal. Face dingy ochraceous, blackish around the eyes. Wing, about 11.00-13.00; tail, 5.75-6.10; culmen, .60-.65; tarsus, 1.75-1.80; middle toe, 1.20. *Hab.* Whole world (except Australia?).

Though this genus is cosmopolitan, the species are few in number; two of them (*O. vulgaris* and *O. brachyotus*) are common to both North America and Europe, one of them (the latter) found also in nearly every country in the world. Besides these, South Africa has a peculiar species (*O. capensis*) while Tropical America alone possesses the *O. stygius*.

## **Otus vulgaris, var. wilsonianus, LESS.**

### **LONG-EARED OWL; LESSER-HORNED OWL.**

*Otus peregrinator* (C. BART. TRAV. 1792, p. 285. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. 1854, 196. *Asio peregrinator*, STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 207. *Otus wilsonianus*, LESS. Tr. Orn. 1831, 110. — GRAY, Gen. fol. sp. 2, 1844. — *Id.* Last Birds Brit. Mus. p. 105. — CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. 1854, 81. — *Id.* Birds N. Am. 1858, 53. — COOP. & SUCK. 1860, 155. — COUES, Prod. 1866, 14. *Otus americanus*, BONAP. List, 1838, p. 7. — *Id.* Consp. p. 50. — WEDERB. & TRISTR. Cont. Orn. 1849, p. 81. — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, 113. — *Id.* Trans. Zool. Soc. IV, 1859, 233. — MAX. Cab. Jour. VI, 1858, 25. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, No. 540, p. 50. *Strix otus*, WILS. Am. Orn. 1808, pl. li, f. 1. — RICH. & SW. F. B. A. II, 72. — BONAP. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. II, 37. — *Id.* Isis, 1832, 1140. — AUD. Orn. Biog. IV, 572. — *Id.* Birds Am. pl. cccxxxiii. — PEAB. Birds, Mass. 88. *Uta otus*, JARD. ed. Wils. Am. Orn. I, 1831, 104. — BREWER, ed. Wils. Am. Orn. Synop. p. 687. — NUTT. Man. 130. *Otus vulgaris* (not of Fleming!), JARDINE, ed. Wils. Am. Orn. 1832, II, 278. — AUD. Synop. 1831, 28. — GIRAUD, Birds Long Island, p. 25. *Otus vulgaris*, var. *wilsonianus* (RIDGWAY), COUES, Key, 1872, 204. *Bubo asio*, DEKAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 25, pl. xii, f. 25.

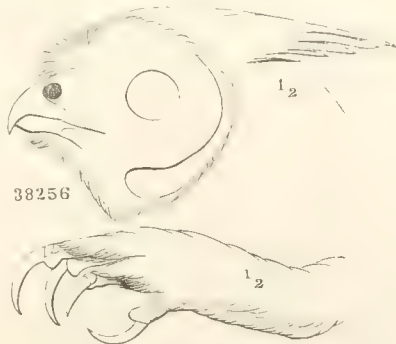
**SP. CHAR.** *Adult*. Upper surface transversely mottled with blackish-brown and grayish-white, the former predominating, especially on the dorsal region; feathers of the nape

p. 8. — BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 50. *Otus stygius*, PUCH. Rev. Zool. 1849, 29. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 12. — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, p. 113. *Asio styg.* ? *Otus signapa*, D'ORB. Hist. Nat. Cuba Ois. p. 31, Tab. 2, 1840. — GRAY, Gen. fol. sp. 9. — BONAP. Consp. 56 (Cuba). *Otus communis*, var., LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 110. *Hab.* South America (Brazil, ? Cuba, St. Paulo, KAUP).



and wings (only), ochraceous beneath the surface, lower scapulars with a few obsolete spots of white on lower webs. Primary coverts dusky, with transverse series of dark mottled grayish spots, these becoming somewhat ochraceous basally; ground-color of the primaries grayish, this especially prevalent on the inner quills; the basal third (or less) of all are ochraceous, this decreasing in extent on inner feathers; the grayish tint is everywhere finely mottled transversely with dusky, but the ochraceous is plain; primaries crossed by a series of about seven quadrate blackish-brown spots, these anteriorly about as wide as the intervening yellowish or mottled grayish; the interval between the primary coverts to the first of these spots is about .80 to 1.00 inch on the fourth quill, — the spots on the inner and outer feathers approaching the coverts, or even underlying them; the inner primaries — or, in fact, the general exposed grayish surface — has much narrower bars of dusky. Ground-color of the wings like the back, this growing paler on the outer feathers, and becoming ochraceous basally; the tip approaching whitish; secondaries crossed by nine or ten narrow bands of dusky.

Ear-tufts, with the lateral portion of each web, ochraceous; this becoming white, somewhat variegated with black, toward the end of the inner webs, on which the ochraceous is broadest; medial portion clear, unvariegated black. Forehead and post-auricular disk minutely speckled with blackish and white; facial circle continuous brownish-black, becoming broken into a variegated collar across the throat. "Eyebrows" and lores grayish-white; eye surrounded with blackish, this broadest anteriorly above and below, the posterior half being like the ear-coverts. Face plain ochraceous; chin and upper part of the throat immaculate white. Ground-color below pale ochraceous, the exposed surface of the feathers, however, white; breast with broad



*Otus wilsonianus.*

longitudinal blotches of clear dark brown, these medial, on the feathers; sides and flanks, each feather with a medial stripe, crossed by as broad, or broader, transverse bars, of blackish-brown; abdomen, tibial plumes, and legs plain ochraceous, becoming nearly white on the lower part of tarsus and on the toes; tibial plumes with a few sagittate marks of brownish; lower tail-coverts each having a medial sagittate mark of dusky, this continuing along the shaft, forking toward the base. Lining of the wing plain pale ochraceous; inner primary coverts blackish-brown, forming a conspicuous spot.

♂ (51,227, Carlisle, Penn.; S. F. Baird). Wing formula, 2, 3-1, 4, etc. Wing, 11.50; tail, 6.20; culmen, .65; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, 1.15.

♀ (2,362, Professor Baird's collection, Carlisle, Penn.). Wing formula, 2, 3-4-1. Wing, 12.00; tail, 6.00; culmen, .65; tarsus, 1.25; middle toe, 1.15.

Young (49,568, Sacramento, Cal., June 21, 1867; Clarence King, Robert Ridgway). Wings and tail as in the adult; other portions transversely banded with blackish-brown and grayish-white, the latter prevailing anteriorly; eyebrows and loreal bristles entirely black; legs white.

HAB. Whole of temperate North America? Tobago? (JARDINE).

Localities: Tobago (JARDINE, Ann. Mag. 18, 116); Arizona (COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 50).

The American Long-eared Owl is quite different in coloration from the *Otus vulgaris* of Europe. In the latter, ochraceous prevails over the whole surface, even above, where the transverse dusky mottling does not approach

the uniformity that it does in the American bird; in the European bird, each feather above has a conspicuous medial longitudinal stripe of dark brownish: these markings are found everywhere except on the rump and upper tail-coverts, where the ochraceous is deepest, and transversely clouded with dusky mottling; in the American bird, no longitudinal stripes are visible on the upper surface. The ochraceous of the lower surface is, in the *vulgaris*, varied only (to any considerable degree) by the sharply defined medial longitudinal stripes to the feathers, the transverse bars being few and inconspicuous; in *wilsonianus*, white overlies the ochraceous below, and the longitudinal are less conspicuous than the transverse markings; the former on the breast are broader than in *vulgaris*, in which, also, the ochraceous at the bases of the primaries occupies a greater extent. Comparing these very appreciable differences with the close resemblance of other representa-

tive styles of the two continents (differences founded on shade or depth of tints alone), we were almost inclined to recognize in the American Long-eared Owl a specific value to these discrepancies.

The *Otus scapic*, Wagl., of South America and Mexico, is entirely distinct, as will be seen from the foregoing synoptical table.

**HABITS.** This species appears to be one of the most numerous of the Owls of North America, and to be pretty generally distributed. Its strictly nocturnal habits have caused it to be temporarily overlooked in localities where it is now known to be present and not rare. Dr. William Gambel and Dr. Heermann both omit it from



*Otus longimanus*

their lists of the birds of California, though Dr. J. G. Cooper has since found it quite common. It was once supposed not to breed farther south than New Jersey, but it is now known to be resident in South Carolina and in Arizona, and is probably distributed through all the intervening country. Donald Gunn writes that to his knowledge this solitary bird hunts in the night, both summer and winter, in the Red River region. It there takes possession of the deserted nests of crows, and lays four white eggs. He found it as far as the shores of Hudson's Bay. Richardson states it to be plentiful in the woods skirting the plains of the Saskatchewan, frequenting the coast of the bay in the summer, and retiring into the interior in the winter. He met with it as high as the 16th parallel of latitude, and believed it to occur as far as the forests extend.

Dr. Cooper met with this species on the banks of the Columbia, east of the Dalles. The region was desolate and barren, and several species of Owls appeared to have been drawn there by the abundance of hares and mice. Dr. Suckley also met with it on a branch of Milk River, in Nebraska. It has likewise been taken in different parts of California, in New Mexico, among the Rocky Mountains, in the valley of the Rio Grande, at Fort Benton, and at Cape Florida, in the last-named place by Mr. Würdemann.

Dr. Cooper found this Owl quite common near San Diego, and in March observed them sitting in pairs in the evergreen oaks, apparently not much troubled by the light. On the 27th of March he found a nest, probably that of a Crow, built in a low evergreen oak, in which a female Owl was sitting on five eggs, then partly hatched. The bird was quite bold, flew round him, snapping her bill at him, and tried to draw him away from the nest; the female imitating the cries of wounded birds with remarkable accuracy, showing a power of voice not supposed to exist in Owls, but more in the manner of a Parrot. He took one of the eggs, and on the 23d of April, on revisiting the nest, he found that the others had hatched. The egg measured 1.60 by 1.36 inches. Dr. Cooper also states that he has found this Owl wandering into the barren treeless deserts east of the Sierra Nevada, where it was frequently to be met with in the autumn, hiding in the thickets along the streams. It also resorts to caves, where any are to be found.

Dr. Kennerly met with this bird in the cañons west of the Aztec Mountains, where they find good places for their nests, which they build, in common with Crows and Hawks, among the precipitous cliffs,—places unapproachable by the wolf and lynx.

On the Atlantic coast the Long-eared Owl occurs in more or less abundance from Nova Scotia to Florida. It is found in the vicinity of Halifax, according to Mr. Downes, and about Calais according to Mr. Boardman, though not abundantly in either region. In Western Maine, and in the rest of New England, it is more common. It has been known to breed at least as far south as Maryland, Mr. W. M. McLean finding it in Rockville. Mr. C. N. Holden, Jr., during his residence at Sherman, in Wyoming Territory, met with a single specimen of this bird. A number of Magpies were in the same bush, but did not seem either to molest or to be afraid of it.

The food of this bird consists chiefly of small quadrupeds, insects, and, to some extent, of small birds of various kinds. Audubon mentions finding the stomach of one stuffed with feathers, hair, and bones.

The Long-eared Owl appears to nest for the most part in trees, and also frequently to make use of the nests of other birds, such as Crows, Hawks, or Herons. Occasionally, however, they construct nests for themselves. Audubon speaks of finding such a one near the Juniata River, in Pennsylvania. This was composed of green twigs with the leaflets adhering, and lined with fresh grass and sheep's wool, but without feathers. Mr. Kennicott sent me from Illinois an egg of this bird, that had been taken from a nest on

the ground; and, according to Richardson, in the tur regions it sometimes lays its eggs in that manner, at other times in the deserted nests of other birds, on low bushes. Mr. Hutchins speaks of its depositing them as early as April. Richardson received one found in May; and another nest was observed, in the same neighborhood, which contained three eggs on the 5th of July. Wilson speaks of this Owl as having been abundant in his day in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and of six or seven having been found in a single tree. He also mentions it as there breeding among the branches of tall trees, and in one particular instance as having taken possession of the nest of a Quail Bird (*Nyctiardea gardeni*), where Wilson found it sitting on four eggs, while one of the Herons had her own nest on the same tree. Audubon states that it usually accommodates itself by making use of the abandoned nests of other birds, whether these are built high or low. It also makes use of the fissures of rocks, or builds on the ground.

As this Owl is known to breed early in April, and as numerous instances are given of their eggs being taken in July, it is probable they have two broods in a season. Mr. J. S. Brandigee, of Berlin, Conn., found a nest early in April, in a hemlock-tree, situated in a thick dark evergreen woods. The nest was flat, made of coarse sticks, and contained four fresh eggs when the parent was shot.

Mr. Ridgway found this Owl to be very abundant in the Sacramento Valley, as well as throughout the Great Basin, in both regions inhabiting dense willow copses near the streams. In the interior it generally lays its eggs in the deserted nests of the Magpie.

The eggs of this Owl, when fresh, are of a brilliant white color, with a slight pinkish tinge, which they preserve even after having been blown, if kept from the light. They are of a rounded-oval shape, and obtuse at either end. They vary considerably in size, measuring from 1.65 to 1.50 inches in length, and from 1.30 to 1.35 inches in breadth. Two eggs, taken from the same nest by Rev. C. M. Jones, have the following measurements: one 1.60 by 1.34 inches, the other 1.50 by 1.30 inches.

## **Otus (Brachyotus) brachyotus, STEPH.**

### **SHORT-EARED OWL; MARSH OWL.**

*Strix brachyotus*, GÜLL. Syst. Nat. 289, 1789. — FORST. Phil. Trans. LXII, 384. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xxxiii, f. 3. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cccxxxii, 1841. — LE. Orn. Biog. V, 273. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 75. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 37. — THOMPS. N. H. Vermont, p. 66. — PEAR. Birds Mass. p. 89. *Urota brachyotus*, JAMES. (WILS.), Am. Orn. I, 106, 1831. — NUTT. Man. 132. *Otus brachyotus*, (STEPH.) JARD. (WILS.), Am. Orn. II, 63, 1832. — PEALE, U. S. Expl. Exp. VIII, 75. — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, 114. — IB. Tr. Zool. Soc. IV, 1859, 236. — HUDSON, P. Z. S. 1870, 799 (habits). *Asio brachyotus*, STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 259, 1855. *Otus brachyotus americanus*, MAX. Cab. Jour. II, 1858, 27. *Brachyotus palustris*, BONAP. List. 1838, p. 7. — RIDGW. in COLES, Key, 1872, 204. *Otus palustris*, (DARW.) DE KAY, Zool.



N. Y. II, 28, pl. xii, f. 27, 1844. *Brachyotus palustris americanus*, BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 51, 1849. *Brachyotus crissal*, BREWER. Pl. Boston Soc. N. H. - NEWB. P. R. Rep't, VI, iv, 76. - HERM. do. VII, 34, 1857. - CASSIN (in BAIRD) Birds N. Am. 1858, 54. - COOP. & SUCKL. P. R. Rep't, XII, ii, 155, 1860. - COUES, P. A. N. S. (Prod. Orn. Ariz.) 1866, 14. - GRAY, Hand List, I, 51, 1869. *Brachyotus galapagensis*, GILL, P. Z. S. 1837, 10. *Otus galapagensis*, DARW. Zool. Bag. pt. iii, p. 32, pl. iii. - GRAY, Gen. fol. sp. 3; List Birds Brit. Mus. 108. - BONAP. Consp. 51. *Asio galapagensis*, STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 211.

SP. CHAR. *Adult*. Ground-color of the head, neck, back, scapulars, rump, and lower parts, pale ochraceous; each feather (except on the rump) with a medial longitudinal stripe of blackish-brown, — these broadest on the scapulars; on the back, nape, occiput, and jugulum, the two colors about equal; on the lower parts, the stripes grow narrower posteriorly, those on the abdomen and sides being in the form of narrow lines. The flanks, legs, anal region, and lower tail-coverts are always perfectly immaculate; the legs most deeply ochraceous, the lower tail-coverts nearly pure white. The rump has obsolete crescentic marks of brownish. The wings are variegated with the general dusky and ochraceous tints, but the markings are more irregular; the yellowish in form of indentations or confluent spots, approaching the shafts from the edge, — broadest on the outer webs. Secondaries crossed by about five bands of ochraceous, the last terminal; primary coverts plain blackish-brown, with one or two poorly defined transverse series of ochraceous spots on the basal portion. Primaries ochraceous on the basal two-thirds, the terminal portion clear dark brown, the tips (broadly) pale brownish-yellowish, this becoming obsolete on the longest; the dusky extends toward the bases, in three to five irregularly transverse series of quadrate spots on the outer webs, leaving, however, a large basal area of plain ochraceous, — this somewhat more whitish anteriorly. The ground-color of the tail is ochraceous, — this becoming whitish exteriorly and terminally, — crossed by five broad bands (about equaling the ochraceous, but becoming narrower toward outer feathers) of blackish-brown; on the middle feathers, the ochraceous spots enclose smaller, central transverse spots of blackish; the terminal ochraceous band is broadest.

Eyebrows, lores, chin, and throat soiled white, the loreal bristles with black shafts; face dingy ochraceous-white, feathers with darker shafts; eye broadly encircled with black. Post-orbital circle minutely speckled with pale ochraceous and blackish, except immediately behind the ear, where for about an inch it is uniform dusky.

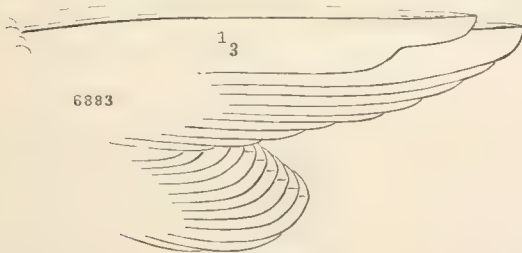
Lining of the wing immaculate delicate yellowish-white; terminal half of under primary coverts clear blackish-brown; under surface of primaries plain

delicate ochraceous-white; ends, and one or two very broad anterior bands, dusky.

♂ (906, Carlisle, Penn.). Wing-formula, 2 - 1, 3. Wing, 11.80; tail, 5.80; culmen, 60; tarsus, 1.75; middle toe, 1.20.



*Otus brachyotus*.



*Otus brachyotus*.

♀ (1,059, Dr. Elliot Cones's collection, Washington, D. C.). Wing-formula, 2-3-1-4. Wing, 13.00; tail, 6.10; culmen, .65; tarsus, 1.80; middle toe, 1.20.

HAB. Entire continent and adjacent islands of America; also Europe, Asia, Africa, P.

Localities: Oaxaca (Sci. P. Z. S. 1859, 390); Cuba (CAB. Journ. III, 465; GUNDEL. Rept. 1865, 225, west end); Arizona (COES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 50); Brazil (PELZ. Orn. 1861, 186); Buenos Ayres (Sci. P. Z. S. 1858, 111); Chile (PETERM. Mus. S. 1861, 186).

In view of the untangible nature of the differences between the American and European Short-eared Owls (seldom at all appreciable, and when appreciable not constant), we cannot admit a difference even of race between them. In fact, this species seems to be the only one of the Owls common to the two continents in which an American specimen cannot be distinguished from the European. The average plumage of the American representative is a shade or two darker than that of European examples; but the lightest specimens I have seen are several from the Yukon region in Alaska, and one from California (No. 6,888, Suisun Valley).

Not only am I unable to appreciate any tangible differences between European and North American examples, but I fail to detect characters of the least importance whereby these may be distinguished from South American and Sandwich Island specimens ("galapagensis, Gould," and "sandwichensis, Blox."). Only two specimens, among a great many from South America (Paraguay, Buenos Ayres, Brazil, etc.), are at all distinguishable from Northern American. These two (Nos. 13,887 and 13,888, Chile) are somewhat darker than others, but not so dark as No. 16,029, ♀, from Fort Crook, California. A specimen from the Sandwich Islands (No. 13,890) is nearly identical with these Chilean birds, the only observable difference consisting in a more blackish forehead,



*Cotyle cotyle*

and in having just noticeable dark shaft-lines on the lower tail-coverts.

In the geographical variations of this species it is seen that the average plumage of North American specimens is just appreciably darker than that of European, while tropical specimens have a tendency to be still darker. I know of no bird so widely distributed which varies so little in the different parts of its habitat, unless it be the *Cotyle riparia*, which, however, is not found so far to the south. The difference, in this



case, between the American and European birds, does not correspond at all to that between the two easily distinguished races of *Otus vulgaris*, *Nyctale tengmalmi*, *Surnia ulala*, and *Syrnium cinereum*.

A specimen from Porto Rico (No. 39,643) is somewhat remarkable on account of the prevalence of the dusky of the upper parts, the unusually few and narrow stripes of the same on the lower parts, the roundish ochraceous spots on the wings, and in having the primaries barred to the base. Should all other specimens from the same region agree in these characters, they might form a diagnosable race. The plumage has an abnormal appearance, however, and I much doubt whether others like it will ever be taken.

**HABITS.** The Short-eared Owl appears to be distributed, in varying frequency, throughout North America, more abundant in the Arctic regions during the summer, and more frequently met with in the United States during the winter months. Richardson met with it throughout the fur countries as far to the north as the 67th parallel. Professor Holböll gives it as a bird of Greenland, and it was met with in considerable abundance by MacFarlane in the Anderson River district. Mr. Murray mentions a specimen received from the wooded district between Hudson's Bay and Lake Winnipeg. Captain Blakiston met with it on the coast of Hudson's Bay, and Mr. Bernard Ross on the Mackenzie River.

Mr. Dresser speaks of it as common at times near San Antonio during the winter months, keeping itself in the tall weeds and grass. It is given by Dr. Gundlach as an occasional visitant of Cuba.

Dr. Newberry met with it throughout Oregon and California, and found it especially common in the Klamath Basin. On the level meadow-like prairies of the Upper Pitt River it was seen associating with the Marsh Hawk in considerable numbers. It was generally concealed in the grass, and rose as the party approached. He afterwards met with this bird on the shores of Klamath Lake, and in the Des Chutes Basin, among grass and sage-bushes, in those localities associated with the Burrowing Owl (*A. hypugæa*). In Washington Territory it was found by Dr. Cooper on the great Spokane Plain, where, as elsewhere, it was commonly found in the long grass during the day. In fall and winter it appeared in large numbers on the low prairies of the coast, but was not gregarious. Though properly nocturnal, it was met with, hunting on cloudy days, flying low over the meadows, in the manner of the Marsh Hawk. He did not meet with it in summer in the Territory.

Dr. Heermann found it abundant in the Suisun and Napa valleys of California, in equal numbers with the *Strix pratensis*. It sought shelter during the day on the ground among the reeds, and, when startled from its hiding-place, would fly but a few yards and alight again upon the ground. It did not seem wild or shy. He afterwards met with the same species on the desert between the Tejon Pass and the Mohave River, and again saw it on the banks of the latter. Richardson gives it as a summer visitant only in

the fur countries, where it arrives as soon as the snow disappears, and departs again in September. A female was killed May 20 with eggs nearly ready for exclusion. The bird was by no means rare, and, as it frequently hunted for its prey in the daytime, was often seen. Its principal haunts appeared to be dense thickets of young pines, or dark and entangled willow-clumps, where it would sit on a low branch, watching assiduously for mice. When disturbed, it would fly low for a short distance, and then hide itself in a bush, from whence it was not easily driven. Its nest was said to be on the ground, in a dry place, and formed of withered grass. Hutchins is quoted as giving the number of its eggs as ten or twelve, and describing them as round. The latter is not correct, and seven appears to be their maximum number.

Mr. Downes speaks of it as very rare in Nova Scotia, but Elliott Cabot gives it as breeding among the islands in the Bay of Fundy, off the coast, where he found several nests. It was not met with by Professor Verrill in Western Maine, but is found in other parts of the State. It is not uncommon in Eastern Massachusetts, where specimens are frequently killed and brought to market for sale, and where it also breeds in favorable localities on the coast. Mr. William Brewster met with it on Muskeget, near Nantucket, where it had been breeding, and where it was evidently a resident, its plumage having become bleached by exposure to the sun, and the reflected light of the white sand of that treeless island. It is not so common in the interior, though Mr. Allen gives it as resident, and rather common, near Springfield. Dr. Wood found it breeding in Connecticut, within a few miles of Hartford.

Dr. Coues gives it as a resident species in South Carolina, and Mr. Allen also mentions it, on the authority of Mr. Boardman, as quite common among the marshes of Florida. Mr. Audubon also speaks of finding it so plentiful in Florida that on one occasion he shot seven in a single morning. They were to be found in the open prairies of that country, rising from the tall grass in a hurried manner, and moving in a zigzag manner, as if suddenly awakened from a sound sleep, and then sailing to some distance in a direct course, and dropping among the thickest herbage. Occasionally the Owl would enter a thicket of tangled palmettoes, where with a cautious approach it could be taken alive. He never found two of these birds close together, but always singly, at distances of from twenty to a hundred yards; and when two or more were started at once, they never flew towards each other.

Mr. Audubon met with a nest of this Owl on one of the mountain ridges in the great pine forest of Pennsylvania, containing four eggs nearly ready to be hatched. They were bluish-white, of an elongated form, and measured 1.50 inches in length and 1.12 in breadth. The nest, made in a slovenly manner with dry grasses, was under a low bush, and covered over with tall grass, through which the bird had made a path. The parent bird betrayed her presence by making a clicking noise with her bill as he passed by; and he nearly put his hand on her before she would

move, and then she hopped away, and would not fly, returning to her nest as soon as he left the spot. The pellets disgorged by the Owl, and found near her nest, were found to consist of the bones of small quadrupeds mixed with hair, and the wings of several kinds of coleopterous insects.

This bird was found breeding near the coast of New Jersey by Mr. Krieger; and at Hamilton, Canada, on the western shore of Lake Ontario, Mr. McIlwraith speaks of its being more common than any other Owl.

A nest found by Mr. Cabot was in the midst of a dry peaty bog. It was built on the ground, in a very slovenly manner, of small sticks and a few feathers, and presented hardly any excavation. It contained four eggs on the point of being hatched. A young bird the size of a Robin was also found lying dead on a tussock of grass in another similar locality.

The notes of Mr. MacFarlane supply memoranda of twelve nests found by him in the Anderson River country. They were all placed on the ground, in various situations. One was in a small clump of dwarf willows, on the ground, and composed of a few decayed leaves. Another nest was in a very small hole, lined with a little hay and some decayed leaves. This was on a barren plain of some extent, fifty miles east of Fort Anderson, and on the edge of the wooded country. A third was in a clump of Labrador Tea, and was similar to the preceding, except that the nest contained a few feathers. This nest contained seven eggs,—the largest number found, and only in this case. A fourth was in an artificial depression, evidently scratched out by the parent bird. Feathers seem to have been noticed in about half the nests, and in all cases to have been taken by the parent from her own breast. Nearly all the nests were in depressions made for the purpose.

Mr. Dall noticed the Short-eared Owl on the Yukon and at Nulato, and Mr. Bannister observed it at St. Michael's, where it was a not unfrequent visitor. In his recent Notes on the Avi-fauna of the Aleutian Islands, (Pr. Cal. Academy, 1873,) Dall informs us that it is resident on Unalashka, and that it excavates a hole horizontally for its nesting-place,—usually to a distance of about two feet, the farther end a little the higher. The extremity is lined with dry grass and feathers. As there are no trees in the island, the bird was often seen sitting on the ground, near the mouth of its burrow, even in the daytime. Mr. Ridgway found this bird in winter in California, but never met with it at any season in the interior, where the *O. wilsonianus* was so abundant.

The eggs of this Owl are of a uniform dull white color, which in the unblown egg is said to have a bluish tinge; they are in form an elliptical ovoid. The eggs obtained by Mr. Cabot measured 1.56 inches in length and 1.25 in breadth. The smallest egg collected by Mr. MacFarlane measured 1.50 by 1.22 inches. The largest taken by Mr. B. R. Ross, at Fort Simpson, measures 1.60 by 1.30 inches; their average measurement is 1.57 by 1.28 inches. An egg of the European bird measures 1.55 by 1.30 inches.

GENUS **SYRNIUM**, SAVIGNY.

*Syrnium*, SAVIGNY, Nat. Hist. Egypt, I, 112; 1809. (Type, *Strix aluco*, L.)

SWAINSON, Cat. P. B. II, 1837, p. 216. (Type, *Strix aluco*, GÜLLER.)

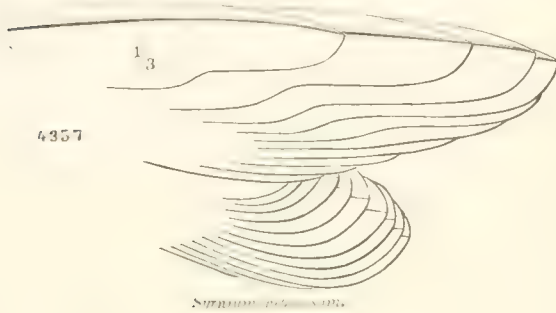
WAGLER, Verh. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Bonn, 1827, p. 100. (Type, *Strix aluco*, GÜLLER.)

KAUP, Cat. P. B. II, 1837, p. 216. (Type, *Strix aluco*, GÜLLER.)

GEN. CHAR. Size varying from medium to very large. No ear-tufts. Head very large,

the eyes comparatively small. Four to six outer primaries with their inner webs sinuated. Tarsi and upper portion, or the whole of the toes, densely clothed with hair-like feathers. Tail considerably more than half as long as the wing, decidedly rounded. Ear-orifice very high, but not so high as the skull, and furnished with an anterior operculum, which does not usually extend along the full length; the two ears

asymmetrical. Bill yellow.



## Subgenera.

**Scotiaptex.** Six outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. Toes completely concealed by dense long hair-like feathers. Iris yellow. (Type, *S. cinereum*.)

**Syrnium**, SWAINSON. Five outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. Toes not completely concealed by feathers; sometimes nearly naked; terminal scutellæ always (?) exposed. Iris blackish. (Type, *S. aluco*.)

The typical species of this genus are confined to the Northern Hemisphere. It is yet doubtful whether the Tropical American species usually referred to this genus really belong here. The genera *Ciccaba*, Wagl., and *Pulsatrix*, Kaup, have been instituted to include most of them; but whether these are generically or only subgenerically distinct from the typical species of *Syrnium* remains to be decided.

Our *S. nebulosum* and *S. occidentale* seem to be strictly congeneric with the *S. aluco*, the type of the subgenus *Syrnium*, since they agree in the minutest particulars in regard to their external form, and other characters not specific.





## Species and Varieties.

a. *Scotioptera*, SWAINSON.

1. **S. cinereum.** Iris yellow; bill yellow. Dusky grayish-brown and grayish-white, the former prevailing above, the latter predominating beneath. The upper surface with mottlings of a transverse tendency; the lower surface with the markings in the form of ragged longitudinal stripes, which are transformed into transverse bars on the flanks, etc. Face grayish-white, with concentric rings of dusky. Wing, 16.00–18.00; tail, 11.00–12.50.

Dark markings predominating. *Hab.* Northern portions of the Nearctic Realm . . . . . var. *cinereum*.

Light markings predominating. *Hab.* Northern portions of the Palearctic Realm . . . . . var. *lapponicum*.

b. *Syrnium*, SAV.

COMMON CHARACTERS. Liver-brown or umber, variously spotted and barred with whitish or ochraceous. Bill yellow; iris brownish-black.

2. **S. nebulosum.** Lower parts striped longitudinally. Head and neck with transverse bars.

Colors reddish-umber and ochraceous-white. Face with obscure concentric rings of darker. Wing, 13.00–14.00; tail, 9.00–10.00. *Hab.* Eastern region of United States . . . . . var. *nebulosum*.

Colors blackish-sepia and clear white. Face without any darker concentric rings. Wing, 14.80; tail, 9.00. *Hab.* Eastern Mexico (Mirador) . . . . . var. *sartorii*.<sup>1</sup>

Colors tawny-brown and bright fulvous. Face without darker concentric rings (?). Wing, 12.50, 12.75; tail, 7.30, 8.50. *Hab.* Guatemala . . . . . var. *fulvescens*.<sup>2</sup>

3. **S. occidentale.** Lower parts transversely barred. Head and neck with roundish spots. Wing, 12.00–13.10; tail, 9.00. *Hab.* Southern California (Fort Tejon, XANTUS) and Arizona (Tucson, Nov. 7, BENDIRE).

<sup>1</sup> *Syrnium nebulosum*, var. *sartorii*, RIDGWAY (Mexican Barred Owl). *Hab.* Mirador, Mexico. CHAR. *Adult* (♀, 43,131, Mirador, near Vera Cruz, Mexico, "pine region"; Dr. C. Sartorius). In general appearance like *nebulosum*, but the brown very much darker, and less reddish,—that of the markings below very nearly black; the pattern, however, precisely the same, and there is about the same proportion between the light and the dark bars as is seen in the average of *nebulosum*. The face is plain dirty white without the brown bars or semicircles,—a constant and conspicuous feature in *nebulosum*. There is the same number of spots on the primaries, and of bands on the tail, as in *nebulosum*. The white beneath is without any ochraceous tinge; the primary coverts are plain dark brown. Wing-formula:  $4-3=5$ ; 1 intermediate between 8 and 9. Wing, 14.80; tail, 9.00; culmen, 1.05; tarsus, 2.20; middle toe, 1.60. This race of the *S. nebulosum* presents very appreciable differences from the bird of the United States. As stated above, the brown is much darker and less reddish, while the face is wholly destitute of the concentric dusky rings seen in *nebulosum* proper. To Dr. Charles Sartorius, who, by the presentation to the Smithsonian Institution of numerous elegantly prepared specimens, has added so much to our knowledge of the birds of the vicinity of Mirador, I take great pleasure in dedicating this new form.

<sup>2</sup> *Syrnium nebulosum*, var. *fulvescens*. *Syrnium fulvescens*, SALVIN, P. Z. S. 1868, 58. CHAR. General appearance of var. *nebulosum*, but smaller and much more ochraceous. Ground-color of the plumage ochraceous, inclining to a deep fulvous tint on the upper parts, but paler below. Feathers of the upper surface tipped with dark umber-brown, and sometimes with an additional bar about the middle of the feather. The fulvous bars much exposed, so as to exceed the brown in amount. Face grayish-white, tinged outwardly with ochraceous. Beneath with the markings of *nebulosum* on a deep and uniform ochraceous ground. Wing, 12.75; tail, 8.50; culmen, .95; tarsus, 2.45; middle toe, 1.20 (Coll. Bost. Soc., No. 367, Guatemala; Van Patten).

**Syrnium (Scotiaptex) cinereum, AUDUBON.****GREAT GRAY OWL.**

*Scotiaptex cinerea*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. p. 291, 1788. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 58, 1790; Syn. I, 184; Suppl. I, 45; Gen. Hist. I, 337. — VIEILL. Nouv. Pict. Hist. Nat. VII, 23, 1816; Enc. Méth. III, 1289; Ois. Am. Sept. I, 48. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, pl. xxxi, 1831. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 436; Isis, 1832, p. 1140. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cccli, 1831; Orn. Biog. IV, 364. — NUTT. Man. p. 128. — TYZENHAUZ, Rev. Zool. 1851, p. 571. *Syrnium cinereum*, AUD. Synop. p. 26, 1839. — CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. p. 184, 1854; Birds N. Am. 1858, p. 56. — BREW. (WILS.) Am. Orn. p. 687. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 26, pl. xiii, f. 29, 1844. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 188, 1855. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rept. VI, IV, 77, 1857. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, II, 156, 1860. — KAUP, Tr. Zool. Soc. IV, 1859, 256. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Acad. I, 1869, 173. — GRAY, Hand List. I, 48, 1869. — MAYNARD, Birds Eastern Mass., 1870, 130. — *Scotiaptex cinerea*, SWAINS. Classif. Birds, II, 217, 1837. *Syrnium lapponicum*, var. *cinereum*, COUES, Key, 1872, 204. *Strix ascalinator*, BART. TERN. 285, 1792.

SP. CHAR. *Adult*. Ground-color of the upper surface dark vandyke-brown, but this relieved by a transverse mottling (on the edges of the feathers) of white, the medial portions of the feathers being scarcely variegated, causing an appearance of obsolete longitudinal dark stripes, these most conspicuous on the scapulars and back. The anterior portions above are more regularly barred transversely; the white bars interrupted, however, by the brown medial stripe. On the rump and upper tail-coverts the mottling is more profuse, causing a grayish appearance. On the wing-coverts the outer webs are most variegated by the white mottling. The alula and primary coverts have very obsolete bands of paler; the secondaries are crossed by nine (last terminal, and three concealed by coverts) bands of pale grayish-brown, inclining to white at the borders of the spots; primaries crossed by nine transverse series of quadrate spots of mottled pale brownish-gray on the outer webs, those beyond the emargination obscure, — the terminal crescentic bar distinct, however; upper secondaries and middle tail-feathers with coarse transverse mottling, almost forming bars. Tail with about nine paler bands, these merely marked off by parallel, nearly white bars, enclosing a plain grayish-brown, sometimes slightly mottled space, just perceptibly darker than the ground-color; basally the feathers become profusely mottled, so that the bands are confused; the last band is terminal. Beneath with the ground-color grayish-white, each feather of the neck, breast, and abdomen with a broad, longitudinal ragged stripe of dark brown, like the ground-color of the upper parts; sides, flanks, crissum, and lower tail-coverts with regular transverse narrow bands; legs with finer, more irregular, transverse bars of dusky. "Eyebrows," lores, and chin grayish-white, a dusky space at anterior angle of the eye; face grayish-white, with distinct concentric semicircles of blackish-brown; facial circle dark brown, becoming white across the foreneck, where it is divided medially by a spot of brownish-black, covering the throat.

♂ (32,306, Moose Factory, Hudson Bay Territory; J. McKenzie). Wing-formula, 4 = 5, 3, 6-2, 7-8-9, 1. Wing, 16.00; tail, 11.00; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.30; middle toe, 1.50.

♀ (54,358, Nulato, R. Am., April 11, 1868; W. H. Dall). Wing-formula, 4 = 5, 3, 6-2, 7-8-9, 1. Wing, 18.00; tail, 12.50; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.20; middle toe, 1.70.

HAB. Arctic America (resident in Canada?). In winter extending into northern borders of United States (Massachusetts, MAYNARD).



The relationship between the *Syrnium cinereum* and the *S. lapponicum* is exactly parallel to that between the *Otus vulgaris*, var. *wilsonianus*, and var. *vulgaris*, *Surnia ulula*, var. *hudsonia*, and the var. *ulula*, and *Nyctale tengmalmi*, var. *richardsoni*, and the var. *tengmalmi*. In conformity to the general rule among the species which belong to the two continents, the American race of the present bird is very decidedly darker than the European one, which has the whitish mottling much more prevalent, giving the plumage a lighter and more grayish aspect. The white predominates on the outer webs of the scapulars. On the head and neck the white equals



*Syrnium cinereum.*

the dusky in extent, while on the lower parts it largely prevails. The longitudinal stripes of the dorsal region are much more conspicuous in *lapponicum* than in *cinereum*.

A specimen in the Schlütter collection, labelled as from "Nord-Europa," is not distinguishable from North American examples, and is so very unlike the usual Lapland style that we doubt its being a European specimen at all.

**HABITS.** The Great Gray or Cinereous Owl appears to be confined to the more northern portions of North America. It is rarely met with in any part of the United States, and only in winter, with the exception of Wash-

ington Territory, where it is presumed to be a resident. It is also said to be a resident in Canada, and to be found in the vicinity of Montreal. Mr. Lawrence does not include this bird in his list of the birds of New York, but Mr. Turnbull states that several have been taken as far south as New Jersey. Throughout New England it is occasional in the winter, but comparatively rare. Mr. Allen did not hear of any having been taken near Springfield. On the coast of Massachusetts they are of infrequent occurrence, and are held at high prices. A fine specimen was shot in Lynn in the winter of 1872, and is now in the collection of my nephew, W. S. Brewer. On the Pacific coast it is resident as far south as the mouth of the Columbia, and is found in winter in Northern California.

Dr. Richardson met with this Owl in the fur regions, where it seemed to be by no means rare. He mentions it as an inhabitant of all the wooded districts which lie between Lake Superior and latitude 67° and 68°, and between Hudson's Bay and the Pacific. It was common on the borders of Great Bear Lake, in which region, as well as in a higher parallel of latitude, it pursues its prey during the summer months by daylight. It was observed to keep constantly within the woods, and was not seen to frequent the barren grounds, in the manner of the Snowy Owl, nor was it so often met with in broad daylight as the Hawk Owl, apparently preferring to hunt when the sun was low and the recesses of the woods deeply shadowed, when the hares and other smaller quadrupeds, upon which it chiefly feeds, were most abundant.

On the 23d of May, Dr. Richardson discovered a nest of this Owl, built on the top of a lofty balsam-poplar, composed of sticks, with a lining of feathers. It contained three young birds, covered with a whitish down, to secure which it was necessary to cut down the tree. While this was going on, the parent birds flew in circles around the tree, keeping out of gun-shot, and apparently undisturbed by the light. The young birds were kept alive for several weeks, but finally escaped. They had the habit, when any one entered the room in which they were kept, of throwing themselves back and making a loud snapping noise with their bills.

In February, 1831, as Audubon was informed, a fine specimen of one of these Owls was taken alive in Marblehead, Mass., having been seen perched upon a woodpile early in the morning. It was obtained by Mr. Ives, of Salem, by whom it was kept several months. It was fed on fish and small birds, and ate its food readily. It would at times utter a tremulous cry, not unlike that of the common Screech-Owl (*Scops asio*), and manifested the greatest antipathy to cats and dogs.

Dr. Cooper found this bird near the mouth of the Columbia River, in a brackish meadow partially covered with small spruce-trees, where they sat concealed during the day, or made short flights from one to another. Dr. Cooper procured a specimen there in June, and has no doubt that the bird is resident and breeds in that neighborhood. He regards it as some-

what diurnal in its habits, and states that it is especially active toward sunset.

Dr. Newberry speaks of this Owl as one generally distributed over the western part of the continent, he having met with it in the Sacramento Valley, in the Cascade Mountains, in the Des Chutes Basin, and in Oregon, on the Columbia River. Mr. Robert MacFarlane found it in great abundance in the Anderson River region. On the 19th of July, as we find in one of his memoranda, he met with a nest of this species near Lockhart River, on the route to Fort Good Hope. The nest was on the top of a pine-tree, twenty feet from the ground. It contained two eggs and two young, both of which were dead. The nest was composed of sticks and mosses, and was lined thinly with down. The female was sitting on the nest, but left it at his approach, and flew to a tree at some distance, where she was shot.

Mr. Donald Gunn writes that the Cinereous Owl is to be found both in summer and in winter throughout all the country commonly known as the Hudson Bay Territory. He states that it hunts by night, preys upon rabbits and mice, and nests in tall poplar-trees, usually quite early in the season.

A single specimen of this Owl was taken at Sitka by Bischoff, and on the 20th of April Mr. Dall obtained a female that had been shot at Takitesky, about twenty miles east of the Yukon, near Nulato. He subsequently obtained several specimens in that region. Mr. Dall describes it as very stupid, and easy to be caught by the hand during the daytime. From its awkward motions its Indian name of *nūhl-tūhl*, signifying "heavy walker," is derived. So far as observed by Mr. Dall, this Owl appeared to feed principally upon small birds, and he took no less than thirteen crania and other remains of *Ægiothus linaria* from the crop of a single bird.

Specimens of this Owl have also been received by the Smithsonian Institution, collected by Mr. Kennicott, from Fort Yukon and from Nulato; from Mr. J. McKenzie, Moose Factory; from J. Lockhart, obtained at Fort Resolution and at Fort Yukon; from J. Flett, at La Pierre House; from B. R. Ross, at Big Island; and from Mr. S. Jones and Mr. J. McDougall, at Fort Yukon. These were all taken between February 11 and July 19.

One of the eggs of this Owl, referred to above in Mr. MacFarlane's note, is in my cabinet. It is small for the size of the bird, and is of a dull soiled-white color, oblong in shape, and decidedly more pointed at one end than at the other. It measures 2.25 inches in length by 1.73 in breadth. The drawing of an egg of this species, made by Mr. Audubon from a supposed specimen of an egg of this species, referred to in the "North American Oology," and which measured 2.44 by 2.00 inches, was probably a sketch of the egg of the Snowy Owl.

**Syrnium nebulosum, GRAY.****BARRED OWL; "HOOT OWL."**

*Strix nebulosa*, FORST. Phil. Trans. XXII, 386 & 424, 1772. — Gmel. Syst. Nat. p. 291, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 58, 1790; Syn. I, 133; Gen. Hist. I, 338. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 191, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 245, 1839; Nat. Misc. pl. xxv. — VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. xvii, 1807; Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. VII, 32; Enc. Méth. III, 1292. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. xlvi, 1831; Orn. Biog. I, 242. — TEMM. Man. Orn. pt. i, p. 88; pt. iii, p. 47. — WERN. Atl. Ois. Eur. — MEYER, Taschenb. Deutsch Vogelk. III, 21; Zusätze, p. 21. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xxxiii, f. 2, 1808. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 81. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 38; Isis, 1832, p. 1140. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 57, 1832. *Ulula nebulosa*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, pl. ii, p. 60, 1815. — CUV. Reg. An. (ed. 2), I, 342, 1829. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 107, 1831; IV, 280. — BONAPARTE, List, page 7, 1838; Conspectus Avium, p. 53. — GOULD, Birds Eur. pl. xlvii. — LESS. Man. Orn. I, 113, 1828; Tr. Orn. p. 108. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. (ed. 2), p. 8, 1844. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 29, pl. x, f. 21, 1844. *Syrnium nebulosum*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 9, 1844; List Birds Brit. Mus. p. 104. — CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. p. 184, 1854; Birds N. Am. 1858, 56. — GIRAUD, Birds Long Island, p. 24, 1844. — WOODH. in Sitgr. Rept. Expl. Zuni & Colorad. p. 63, 1853. — BREW. (WILS.) Am. Orn. p. 687, 1852. — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, p. 121. — IB. Tr. Zool. Soc. IV, 256. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 189, 1855. — MAX. Cab. Jour. VI, 1858, 28. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 330 (Texas, resident). — COUES, Key, 1872, 204. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 48, 1869.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult.* Head, neck, breast, back, scapulars, and rump with broad regular transverse bars of ochraceous-white and deep umber-brown, the latter color always terminal; on the upper surface the brown somewhat exceeds the whitish in width, but on the neck and breast the white rather predominates. The lower third of the breast is somewhat differently marked from the upper portion, the brown bars being connected along the shaft of the feather, throwing the white into pairs of spots on opposite webs. Each feather of the abdomen, sides, flanks, and lower tail-coverts has a broad medial longitudinal stripe of brown somewhat deeper in tint than the transverse bars on the upper parts; the anal region is plain, more ochraceous, white; the legs have numerous, but rather faint, transverse spots of brown. Ground-color of the wings and tail brown, like the bars of the back; middle and secondary wing-coverts with roundish transverse spots of nearly pure white on lower webs; lesser coverts plain rich brown; secondaries crossed by six bands of pale grayish-brown, passing into paler on the edge of each feather, — the last is terminal, passing narrowly into whitish; primary coverts with four bands of darker ochraceous-brown; primaries with transverse series of quadrate pale-brown spots on the outer webs (growing deeper in tint on inner quills), the last terminal; on the longest are about eight. Tail like the wings, crossed with six or seven sharply defined bands of pale brown, the last terminal.

Face grayish-white, with concentric semicircular bars of brown; eyebrows and lores with black shafts; a narrow crescent of black against anterior angle of the eye. Facial circle of blackish-brown and creamy-white bars, the former prevailing along the anterior edge, the latter more distinct posteriorly, and prevailing across the neck in front, where the brown forms disconnected transverse spots.

♀ (752, Carlisle, Penn.). Wing-formula, 4-3, 5-2, 6; 1=9. Wing, 13.00; tail, 9.00; culmen, 1.05; tarsus, 1.90; middle toe, 1.50.

♂. A little smaller. (No specimen marked ♂ in the collection.)

**HAB.** Eastern North America, west to the Missouri; Rio Grande region.



A female (?) from Calais, Me., (4,966 ; G. A. Boardman,) is somewhat lighter-colored than the type, owing to the clearer white of the bars. It measures, wing, 13.50 ; tail, 9.80.

A specimen (4,357, January) from Washington, D. C., is quite remarkable for the very dark tints of plumage and the unusual prevalence of the brown ; this is of a more reddish cast than in all other specimens, becoming somewhat blackish on the head and neck ; anteriorly it prevails so as to almost completely hide the pale bars of the back and nape. The tail has



*Syrnium nebulosum.*

no bars except three or four very obsolete ones near the end ; beneath, the ochraceous tinge is quite deep. The toes, except their first joint, are perfectly naked ; the middle one, however, has a narrow strip of feathering running along the outer side as far as the last joint. The darker shades of color, and more naked toes, seem to be distinguishing features of southern examples.

**HABITS.** The Barred Owl has an extended range, having been met with nearly throughout North America, from about latitude 50° to Texas. Minnesota is the most western point to which, so far as I am aware, it has been traced. It is more abundant in the Southern States than elsewhere, and in the more northern portions of North America is somewhat rare. Richardson did not encounter it in the more arctic portion of the fur countries, nor has it, so far as I can learn, been observed on the Pacific coast. It is said to be of accidental occurrence in northern Europe.

In Louisiana, as Mr. Audubon states, it is more abundant than anywhere



else, and Dr. Woodhouse speaks of it as very common in the Indian Territories and also in Texas and New Mexico, especially in the timbered lands bordering the streams and ponds of that region. In July, 1846, while in pursuit of shore birds in the island of Muskeget, near Nantucket, in the middle of a bright day, I was surprised by meeting one of these birds, which, uninvited, joined us in the hunt, and when shot proved to be a fine male adult specimen.

The Barred Owl was found in great abundance in Florida by Mr. J. A. Allen, the only species of Owl at all common, and where its ludicrous notes were heard at night everywhere, and even occasionally in the daytime. At night they not unfrequently startle the traveller by their strange utterances from the trees directly over his head.

Mr. Dresser speaks of it as very abundant at all seasons of the year in the wooded parts of Texas. He was not able to find its nest, but was told by the hunters that they build in hollow trees, near the banks of the rivers.

According to Mr. Downes, this Owl is common throughout Nova Scotia, where it is resident, and never leaves its particular neighborhood. It breeds in the woods throughout all parts of that colony, and was observed by him to feed on hares, spruce and ruffed grouse, and other birds. It is said to be a quite common event for this bird to make its appearance at midnight about the camp-fires of the moose-hunter and the lumberer, and to disturb their slumbers with its cries, as with a demoniacal expression it peers into the glare of the embers. Distending its throat and pushing its head forward, it gives utterance to unearthly sounds that to the superstitious are quite appalling.

Mr. Wilson regarded this species as one of the most common of the Owls in the lower parts of Pennsylvania, where it was particularly numerous in winter, among the woods that border the extensive meadows of the Schuylkill and the Delaware River. He frequently observed it flying during the day, when it seemed to be able to see quite distinctly. He met with more than forty of these birds in one spring, either flying or sitting exposed in the daytime, and once discovered one of its nests situated in the crotch of a white oak, among thick foliage, and containing three young. It was rudely put together, made outwardly of sticks, intermixed with dry grasses and leaves, and lined with smaller twigs. He adds that this Owl screams in the day in the manner of a Hawk. Nuttall characterizes their peculiar hooting as a loud guttural call, which he expresses by 'koh-'koh-'ko-'ko-'ho, or as 'whah-'whah-'whah-'whah-aa, heard occasionally both by day and by night. It is a note of recognition, and may be easily imitated, and can be used as a means to decoy the birds. Nuttall received a specimen that had been shot in November, hovering, in the daytime, over a covey of Quail.

Mr. Audubon speaks of the peculiar hooting cries of this species as strangely ludicrous in sound, and as suggestive of an affected burst of

laughter. He adds that he has frequently seen this nocturnal marauder alight within a few yards of his camp-fire, exposing its whole body to the glare of the light, and eying him in a very curious manner, and with a noticeable liveliness and oddness of motion. In Louisiana, where he found them more abundant than anywhere else, Mr. Audubon states that, should the weather be lowering, and indicative of the approach of rain, their cries are so multiplied during the day, and especially in the evening, and they respond to each other in tones so strange, that one might imagine some extraordinary *fête* was about to take place among them. At this time their gesticulations are said to be of a very extraordinary nature.

The flight of this Owl is described as remarkably smooth, light, noiseless, and capable of being greatly protracted. So very lightly do they fly, that Mr. Audubon states he has frequently discovered one passing over him, and only a few yards distant, by first seeing its shadow on the ground, in the bright moonlight, when not the faintest rustling of its wings could be heard.

This Owl has the reputation of being very destructive to poultry, especially to half-grown chickens. In Louisiana they are said to nest in March, laying their eggs about the middle of the month. Audubon states that they nest in hollow trees on the dust of the decomposed wood, and at other times take possession of the deserted nest of a crow, or of a Red-tailed Hawk. In New England I think they construct their own nest. Mr. William Street, of Easthampton, Mass., has twice found the nest of this Owl. On one occasion it had young, unfledged. Upon returning to get them, a few days later, they had disappeared, and as he conjectures, had been removed by their parents. Another time he found a nest in a lofty pine, and at a height of sixty feet. He saw and shot the old bird. He has often found them hiding themselves by day in a thick hemlock. In the winter of 1869, Mr. Street witnessed a singular contest between a Barred Owl and a Goshawk over a Grouse which the latter had killed, but of which the Owl contested the possession. The Hawk had decidedly the advantage in the fight, when the contest was arrested by shooting the Owl. He has noticed a pair of Barred Owls in his neighborhood for the past four years, and has never known them to hoot from the time they have reared their young to the 14th of February. They then begin about an hour after dark, and their hooting continues to increase until about the 8th of April, when they mate, at which time their hooting may be heard both day and night. There is a very great difference observable between the cries of the female and the utterances of the male. The latter seldom hoots, and there is as much difference between his voice and that of the female as between the crowing of a young bird and of the old cock.

In two instances I have known well-developed eggs of this Owl taken from the oviduct of the female in February. One of these cases occurred near Niagara Falls in the spring of 1852. The other, in 1854, was noticed by Professor William Hopkins, then of Auburn, N. Y., to whose kindness I

was indebted for the egg the parentage of which is so unquestionable. It is purely white, almost globular, and, except in shape, hardly distinguishable from the egg of the domestic Hen. It is 2.00 inches in length, and 1.69 in breadth.

### *Syrnium occidentale*, XANTUS.

#### WESTERN BARRED OWL; SPOTTED OWL.

*Syrnium ad. H. G. L.*, XANTUS, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1859, 193. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. App. Pl. LXVI. — COLES, Key, 1872, 204.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, 17,200, Fort Tejon, California; J. Xantus. Type of Xantus's description). Above deep umber-brown, much as in *S. nebulosum*. Whole head and neck



*Syrnium occidentale.*

with circular and cordate spots of white, one near the end of each feather; on the scapulars and back, rump, wings, and tail, they are rather sparse and more transverse, but of very irregular form; they are most conspicuous on the scapulars and larger wing-coverts. Secondaries crossed with about six bands of paler brown, each spot growing white on the edge of the feather, — the last band terminal; primaries with seven transverse series of pale brown, or brownish-white, quadrate spots on outer webs, the last terminal; these spots are almost clear white on the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth quills. Tail with about eight very narrow, rather obsolete, bands of pale brown, growing whiter and more distinct terminally, the last forming a conspicuous terminal band. Ground-color of the lower parts dull white,

somewhat tinged with ochraceous laterally; everywhere with numerous transverse spots and bars of brown like the back, — this predominating anteriorly, the white forming spots on opposite webs; on the lower tail-coverts the transverse spots or bars are very sharply defined and regular, the brown rather exceeding the white. Face, eyebrows, and lores soiled brownish-white, the former with obscure concentric semicircles of darker brownish. Facial circle blackish-brown, spotted posteriorly with white; across the neck in front, it is more broken. Legs white, with sparse obsolete transverse specks. Wing-formula, 4, 3, 5-6-2; 1=9. Wing, 13.10; tail, 9.00; culmen, .85; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 1.30. Length, "18"; extent, "40."

HAB. Southern Middle Province of United States (Fort Tejon, California, XANTUS; and Tucson, Arizona, BENDIRE).

HABITS. Nothing is on record concerning the habits of this bird.

GENUS **NYCTALE**, BREHM.*Nyctale*, BREHM, 1828. (Type, *Strix tengmalmi*, GMEL.)

GEN. CHAR. Size small. Head very large, without ear-tufts. Eyes moderate; iris yellow. Two outer primaries only with their inner webs distinctly emarginated. Tarsi and toes densely, but closely, feathered. Ear-conch very large, nearly as high as the skull, with an anterior operculum; the two ears exceedingly asymmetrical, not only externally, but in their osteological structure. Furcula not ankylosed posteriorly, but joined by a membrane.

Of this genus only three species are as yet known; two of these belong to the Northern Hemisphere, one of them (*N. tengmalmi*) being circumpolar, the other (*N. acadica*) peculiar to North America. The habitat of the remaining species (*N. harrisi*) is unknown, but is supposed to be South America. If it be really from that portion of the New World, it was probably obtained in a mountainous region.

*Nyctale acadica.***Species and Races.**

COMMON CHARACTERS. Above umber, or chocolate, brown, spotted with white (more or less uniform in the young); beneath white with longitudinal stripes of reddish-brown (adult), or ochraceous without markings (young).

**A.** Nostril sunken, elongate-oval, obliquely vertical, opening laterally; cere not inflated. Tail considerably more than half the wing. Bill yellow.

1. ***N. tengmalmi***. Wing, 7.20; tail, 4.50; culmen, .60; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, .67 (average).

Legs white, almost, or quite, unspotted; lower tail-coverts with narrow shaft-streaks of brown. (Light tints generally predominating.) *Hab.* Northern portions of Palearctic Realm. var. *tengmalmi*.<sup>1</sup>

Legs ochraceous, thickly spotted with brown; lower tail-coverts with broad medial stripes of brown. (Dark tints generally predominating.) *Hab.* Northern portions of Nearctic Realm.

var. *richardsoni*.

<sup>1</sup> *Nyctale tengmalmi*, var. *tengmalmi*. *Strix tengmalmi*, GMEL. S. N. p. 291, 1789 (et AUCT. var.). *Nyctale t.*, BONAP. et AUCT. *Noctua t.*, CUV. et AUCT. *Athene t.*, BOIE. *Uhlula t.*, BONAP. et AUCT. *Scotophilus t.*, SWAINS. *Strix dasypus*, BECHST. (1791) et AUCT. *Nyctale d.*, GRAY. *Strix passerina*, A. MEYER, 1794. — PALLAS. *Nyctale planiceps*, BREHM, 1831. *N. pinctorum*, BREHM, 1831. *N. abietum*, BREHM, 1831. *N. funerea*, BONAP. 1842 (not of LINN., 1761, which is *Surnia ulula*). "*N. kirtlandi*," ELLIOT, Ibis, II, Jan., 1872, p. 48 (not of HOY!).



**B.** Nostril prominent, nearly circular, opening anteriorly; cere somewhat  
 in front. Tail strongly notched behind the wing. Bill black.

2. **N. acadica.** Wing, 5.25 to 5.80; tail, 2.60 to 3.00; culmen, .50;  
 tarsus, .80; middle toe, .60. *Juv.* Face dark brown; forehead and  
 crown brown; occiput brown; eyebrows and sides of chin white;  
 throat and breast white. (Cassin, *Proc. A. N. S.*, Shaw, *Sci. Acad.*,  
 Nov.) *Hab.* Cold temperate portions of Nearctic Realm.

3. **N. harrisi.**<sup>1</sup> Wing, 5.80; tail, 3.00; culmen, .50; tarsus, 1.00; middle  
 toe, .80. *Juv.* (?) Face and forehead and anterior half of crown and  
 whole nape ochraceous; posterior half of crown and occiput black;  
 eyebrows and sides of chin ochraceous; throat and breast ochraceous.  
 A narrow belt of black spots in ruff across throat. *Hab.* South America?

## **Nyctale tengmalmi, var. richardsoni, BONAP.**

### **AMERICAN SPARROW OWL; RICHARDSON'S OWL.**

*N. al. richardsoni*, BONAP. List. E. & N. A. Birds, p. 7, 1838; Consp. Av. p. 54, 1850. —  
 GRAY, Gen. B. vol. sp. 2, 1844. — CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. p. 185, 1844; Birds N. Am.  
 1858, p. 57. — KATZ, Monog. Stud. Cont. Orn. 1852, p. 105, sub *tenella*. — Ib.  
 Tr. Zool. Soc. IV, 1859, 208. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 176, 1855. — MAYNARD, Birds  
 Eastern Mass. 1870, 133. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 51, 1869. *Strix tengmalmi*, RICH.  
 & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 94, pl. xxxii, 1831. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cccxxx, 1831; Orn.  
 Biog. IV, 599, 1831. — PEAR. Birds Mass. p. 91, 1841. *Nyctale tengmalmi*, DALL &  
 BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Acad. I, 1869, 273. *Nyctale tengmalmi, var. richardsoni*,  
 RIDGWAY, Am. Nat. VI, May, 1872, 285. — COUES, Key, 1872, 206.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult* (♀, 3,886, Montreal, Canada, September, 1853; Broome). Upper  
 surface brownish-olive or umber-brown. Forehead and crown with numerous elliptical  
 (longitudinal) marks of white, feathers everywhere with large partly concealed spots of the  
 same; these spots are largest on the neck and scapulars, on the latter of a roundish form,  
 the outer webs of those next the wing being almost wholly white, the edge only brown;  
 on the nape the spots form V-shaped marks, the spots themselves being somewhat pointed;  
 below this is a transverse, less distinct collar, of more concealed spots; wing-coverts toward  
 the edge of the wing with a few large, nearly circular, white spots; secondaries with two  
 transverse series of smaller white spots, these crossing about the middle, remote from the  
 end and base; outer feathers of the alula with two white spots along the margin;  
 primary coverts plain; primaries with four or five transverse series of white spots; tail  
 with the same number of narrow transverse spots, forming incontinuous bands, the spots  
 not touching the shaft, — the last spot not terminal. Facial circle much darker brown  
 than the crown, and speckled with irregular spots of white, these either medial or upon  
 only one web; across the throat the circle becomes paler brown, without the white spot-  
 ting. Eyebrows and face grayish-white; lores and eyelids blackish. Lower parts white,  
 becoming pale ochraceous on the legs; sides of the breast, sides, flanks, and lower tail-  
 coverts with daubs of brown (slightly lighter and more reddish than on the back), those  
 of the breast somewhat transverse, but posteriorly they are decidedly longitudinal; front  
 of tarsus clouded with brown. Wing-formula, 3, 4-2-5-6-7-1. Wing, 7.20; tail,  
 4.50; culmen, .60; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, .67.

A female from Alaska (49,802, Nulato, April 28, 1867; W. H. Dall) is considerably  
 darker than the specimen described above; the occiput has numerous circular spots of

<sup>1</sup> *Nyctale harrisi*, CASSIN, Pr. Ac. Nat. Sc. Philad. IV, p. 157, Feb., 1849. — Ib. Tr. A. N. S.  
 II, 2d series, Nov., 1850, pl. v.



white, and the tarsi are more thickly spotted; no other differences, however, are appreciable. Two specimens from Quebec (17,064 and 17,065; Wm. Cooper) are exactly similar to the last, but the numerous white spots on the forehead are circular.

HAB. Arctic America; in winter south into northern border of United States; Canada (DR. HALL); Wisconsin (DR. HOY); Oregon (J. K. TOWNSEND); Massachusetts (MAYNARD).

The *Nyctale richardsoni*, though, without doubt, specifically the same as the *N. tengmalmi* of Europe, is, nevertheless, to be distinguished from it. The colors of the European bird are very much paler; the legs are white, scarcely variegated, instead of ochraceous, thickly spotted; the lower tail-coverts have merely shaft-streaks of brown, instead of broad stripes. Very perfect specimens from Europe enable me to make a satisfactory comparison.

From an article by Mr. D. G. Elliot in *Ibis* (1872, p. 48), it would appear that the young of *N. tengmalmi* is very different from the adult in being darker and without spots; a stripe from the eye over the nostrils, and a patch under the eye at the base of bill, white. It is probable, therefore, that the American race has a similar plumage, which, however, has as yet escaped the honor of a name; more fortunate than the young of *N. acadica*, which boasts a similar plumage. This (*N. albifrons*) Mr. Elliot erroneously refers to the *N. tengmalmi*, judging from specimens examined by him from the Alps, from Russia, and from Norway. The most striking difference, judging from the description, apart from that of size, appears to be in the whiter bill of the *tengmalmi*.



*Nyctale richardsoni.*

HABITS. This race is an exclusively northern bird, peculiar to North America, and rarely met with in the limits of the United States. A few specimens only have been obtained in Massachusetts. Dr. Hoy mentions it as a bird of Wisconsin, and on the Pacific Dr. Townsend met with it as far south as Oregon, where it seems to be more abundant than on the eastern coast.

Mr. Boardman thinks that this Owl is probably a resident in the vicinity of Calais, where, however, it is not common. It was not taken by Professor Verrill at Norway, Maine. Mr. J. A. Allen regards it as a very rare winter visitant in Western Massachusetts, but obtained a specimen near Springfield in December, 1859. In the same winter another was shot near Boston, and one by Dr. Wood, near Hartford, Conn. Mr. Allen subsequently records the capture of a specimen in Lynn, Mass., by Mr. J. Southwick, in

the winter of 1863, and mentions two other specimens, also taken within the limits of the State. It is not mentioned by Dr. Cooper as among the birds of California.

Specimens of this Owl were taken at Fort Simpson in May, and at Fort Resolution by Mr. B. R. Ross, at Bag Island by Mr. J. Reid, at Fort Rae by Mr. L. Clarke, and at Fort Yukon by Mr. J. Lockhart and Mr. J. McDougall, and at Selkirk Settlement, in February and March, by Mr. Donald Gunn.

Mr. B. R. Ross states that though no specimens of this Owl were received from north of Fort Simpson, yet he is quite certain that it ranges to the Arctic Circle. He says it is a fierce bird, and creates great havoc among the flocks of Linnets and other small birds. Its nest is built on trees, and the eggs are three or four in number, of a pure white color and nearly round shape. It sometimes seizes on the deserted hole of a Woodpecker for a habitation.

Mr. Dall obtained a female specimen of this Owl at Nulato, April 28, where it was not uncommon. It was often heard crying in the evenings, almost like a human being, and was quite fearless. It could be readily taken in the hand without its making any attempt to fly away, but it had a habit of biting viciously. It was frequently seen in the daytime sitting on trees. According to the Indians, it generally nests in holes in dead trees, and lays six spherical white eggs. Richardson informs us that it inhabits all the wooded country from Great Slave Lake to the United States, and is very common on the banks of the Saskatchewan. It was obtained in Canada by the Countess of Dalhousie, but at what season the bird was met with is not stated; the Smithsonian Institution also possesses specimens from the vicinity of Montreal. It probably does not breed so far south as that place, or, if so, very rarely. Mr. Audubon procured a specimen near Bangor, Maine, in September, the only one he ever met with.

This Owl, according to Mr. Hutchins, builds a nest of grass half-way up a pine-tree, and lays two eggs in the month of May.

A drawing, taken by Mr. Audubon from a specimen in an English cabinet, represents a nearly spherical egg, the color of which is white with a slight tinge of yellowish, and which measures 1.18 inches in length by one inch in breadth.

The only authenticated eggs of this variety which have come under my notice are three collected at Fort Simpson, May 4, 1861, by B. R. Ross. One of these measures 1.28 by 1.06 inches.

**Nyctale acadica, BONAP.****SAW-WHET OWL; WHITE-FRONTED OWL; KIRTLAND'S OWL.**

*Strix acadica*, GMLL. Syst. Nat. p. 296, 1789. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 206, 1800. — VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, 49, 1807. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cxviii, 1831; Orn. Biog. V, 397. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 97, 1831. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, pp. 38, 436; Isis, 1832, p. 1140. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 66. — NAUM. Nat. Vög. Deutschl. (ed. Nov.) I, 434, pl. xliii, figs. 1 & 2. — PEAB. Birds Mass. p. 90. — NUTT. Man. p. 137, 1833. *Nyctale acadica*, BONAP. List, p. 7, 1838; Consp. Av. p. 44. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. App. p. 3, 1844. — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, p. 104. — IB. Tr. Zool. Soc. IV, 1859, 206. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 176, 1855. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rept. VI, 77, 1857. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 58. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, II, 156, 1860. — COUES, Prod. B. Ariz. 14, 1866. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 51. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, III (Brit. Columb.). — RIDGWAY, Am. Nat. VI, May, 1872, 285. — COUES, Key, 1872, 206. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 51, 1869. *Scotophilus acadicus*, SWAINS. Classif. Birds II, 217, 1837. *Strix passerina*, PENN. Arct. Zool. p. 236, sp. 126, 1785. — FORST. Phil. Transl. LXII, 385. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xxxiv, f. 1, 1808. *Ulua passerina*, JAMES. (WILS.), Am. Orn. I, 159, 1831. *Strix acadensis*, LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 65, 1790. *S. albifrons*, SHAW, Nat. Misc. V, pl. clxxi, 1794; Zool. VII, 238, 1809. — LATH. Orn. Supp. p. 14. *Bubo albifrons*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, 54, 1807. *Scops albifrons*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, II, 51. *Nyctale albifrons*, CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. 187, 1854. — BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 54. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 57. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 52, 1869. *Strix frontalis*, LICHT. Abh. Ak. Berl. 1838, 430. *Nyctale kirtlandi*, HOY, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. VI, 210, 1852. *S. phalanoides*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 206, 1800. — LATH. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 16, 1802; Syn. Supp. II, 66; Gen. Hist. I, 372, 1828. *Athene phalanoides*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 43, 1844. *Athene wilsoni*, BOIE, Isis, 1828, 315.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult* (♀, 120,044, Washington, D. C., Feb., 1859; C. Drexler). Upper surface plain soft reddish-olive, almost exactly as in *N. richardsoni*; forehead, anterior part of the crown, and the facial circle, with each feather with a short medial line of white; feathers of the neck white beneath the surface, forming a collar of blotches; lower webs of scapulars white bordered with brown; wing-coverts with a few rounded white spots; alula with the outer feathers broadly edged with white. Primary coverts and secondaries perfectly plain; five outer primaries with semi-rounded white spots on the outer webs, these decreasing toward the ends of the feathers, leaving but about four series well defined. Tail crossed with three widely separated narrow bands of white, formed of spots not touching the shaft on either web; the last band is terminal. "Eyebrow" and sides of the throat white; lores with a blackish suffusion, this more concentrated around the eye; face dirty white, feathers indistinctly edged with brownish, causing an obsoletely streaked appearance; the facial circle in its extension across the throat is converted into reddish-umber spots. Lower parts, generally, silky-white, becoming fine ochraceous on the tibiae and tarsi; sides of the breast like the back, but of a more reddish or burnt-sienna tint; sides and flanks with longitudinal daubs of the same; jugulum, abdomen, lower tail-coverts, tarsi, and tibiae, immaculate. Wing formula,  $4-3=5-1=8$ . Wing, 5.40; tail, 2.80; culmen, .50; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .60.

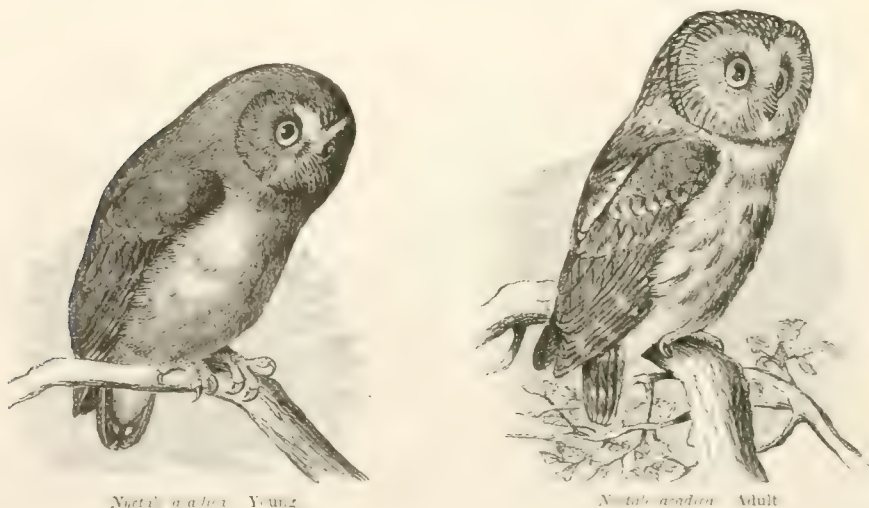
Seven specimens before me vary from, wing, 5.25 to 5.80; tail, 2.60 to 3.00 (♀). The largest specimen is 12,053 (♀, Fort Tejon, California; J. Xantus). This differs from the specimen described in whiter face, more conspicuous white streaks on forehead, smaller, less numerous, red spots below, and in having a fourth white band on the tail; this, however, is very inconspicuous. 32,301 (Moose Factory; J. McKenzie), 9,152 (Fort Vancouver, February; Dr. J. G. Cooper), and 11,793 (Simiahmoo, October; Dr. C. B. Kennerly) are

exactly like the type. There are no authentic males before me, though only two are marked as females; the extremes of the series probably represent the sexual discrepancy in size.

*Young* (♂, 12,814, Racine, Wisconsin, July, 1859; Dr. R. P. Hoy). Upper surface continuous plain dark sepia-olive; face darker, approaching fuliginous-vandyke, — perfectly uniform; around the edge of the forehead, a few shaft-lines of white; scapulars with a concealed spot of pale ochraceous on lower web; lower feathers of wing-coverts with a few white spots; outer feather of the alula scalloped with white; primary coverts perfectly plain; five outer primaries with white spots on outer webs, these diminishing toward the end of the feathers, leaving only two or three series well defined; tail darker than the wings, with three narrow bands composed of white spots, these not touching the shaft on either web. "Eyebrows" immaculate white; lores more dusky; face and eyelids dark vandyke-brown; sides of the chin white. Throat and whole breast like the back, but the latter paler medially, becoming here more fulvous; rest of the lower parts plain fulvous-ochraceous, growing gradually paler posteriorly, — immaculate. Lining of the wing plain dull white; under surface of primaries with dusky prevailing, but this crossed by bands of large whitish spots; the three outer feathers, however, present a nearly uniformly dusky aspect, being varied only basally. Wing formula, 3, 4 - 2 = 5 6 - 7, 1. Wing, 5.50; tail, 2.80; culmen, .45; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .65.

*HAB.* North America generally. Cold temperate portions in the breeding-season, migrating southward in winter. Mexico (Oaxaca, SCLATER, P. Z. S. 1858, 295); California (DR. COOPER); Cantonment Burgwyn, New Mexico (DR. ANDERSON); Washington Territory (DR. KENNERLY).

A specimen (15,917, ♂, Dr. C. B. Kennerly, Camp Skagitt, September 29, 1859) from Washington Territory is exactly similar to the young described



above. No. 10,702 (Fort Burgwyn, New Mexico; Dr. Anderson) is much like it, but the facial circle is quite conspicuous, the feathers having medial white lines; the reddish-olive of the breast and the fulvous of the belly are paler, also, than in the type. No. 12,866, United States, (Professor Baird's collection, from Audubon,) is perfectly similar to the last.



My reasons for considering the *N. albifrons* as the young of *N. acadica* are the following (see American Naturalist, May, 1872):—

1st. All specimens examined (including Hoy's type of *N. kirtlandi*) are young birds, as is unmistakably apparent from the texture of their plumage.

2d. All specimens examined of the *N. acadica* are adults. I have seen no description of the young.

3d. The geographical distribution, the size and proportions, the pattern of coloration (except that of the head and body, which in all Owls is more or less different in the young and adult stages), and the shades of colors on the general upper plumage, are the same in both. The white "scalloping" on the outer web of the alula, the number of white spots on the primaries, and the precise number and position of the white bars on the tail, are features common to the two.

4th. The most extreme example of *albifrons* has the facial circle uniform brown, like the neck, has no spots on the forehead, and the face is entirely uniform dark brown; but,

5th. Three out of the four specimens in the collection have the facial circle composed of white and brown streaks (adult feathers), precisely as in *acadica*, and the forehead similarly streaked (with adult feathers). Two of them have new feathers appearing upon the sides of the breast (beneath the brown patch), as well as upon the face; these new feathers are, in the most minute respects, like the common (adult) dress of *N. acadica*.

The above facts point conclusively to the identity of the *Nyctale* "*albifrons*" and *N. acadica*. This species is easily distinguishable from the *N. tengmalmi*, which belongs to both continents, though the North American and European specimens are readily separable, and therefore should be recognized as geographical races.

Since the above was published in the American Naturalist for May, 1872, Dr. J. W. Velie, of Chicago, writing under date of November 20, 1872, furnishes the following proof of the identity of *N. "albifrons"* and *N. acadica*: "In 1868, I kept a fine specimen of "*Nyctale albifrons*" until it moulted and became a fine specimen of *Nyctale acadica*. I had, until the fire, all the notes about this interesting little species, and photographs in the different stages of moulting."

**HABITS.** The Little Acadian or Saw-Whet Owl, as this bird is more generally denominated, appears to have a widespread distribution over temperate North America. It is not known to be anywhere very abundant, though its nocturnal and secluded habits tend to prevent any intimate acquaintance either with its habits or its numbers in any particular locality. It is rarely found in the daytime out of its hiding-places. It was not met with by Richardson in the fur regions, yet it is generally supposed to be a somewhat northern species, occurring only in winter south of Pennsylvania, but for this impression there does not seem to be any assignable reason or any confirmatory evidence. It has been said to breed near Cleveland, Ohio, and its



nest and eggs to have been secured. The taking of Kirtland's Owl, which is now known to be the immature bird of this species, near that city, as well as in Racine, and at Hamilton, Canada, is also suggestive that this Owl may breed in those localities.

Dr. Townsend is said to have found this Owl in Oregon, Dr. Gambel met with it in California, Mr. Audubon has taken it both in Kentucky and in Louisiana, Mr. Wilson met with it in New Jersey, Mr. McCulloch in Nova Scotia, and Dr. Hoy in Wisconsin. Dr. Newberry met with this bird in Oregon, but saw none in California. Dr. Suckley obtained it at the Dalles, on the north side of the Columbia, in December. This was several miles from the timbered region, and the bird was supposed to be living in the basaltic cliffs of the vicinity. Dr. Cooper found one at Vancouver in February. It was dead, and had apparently died of starvation. Professor Snow speaks of it as rare in Kansas. Mr. Boardman and Professor Verrill both give it as resident and as common in Maine. It is rather occasional and rare in Eastern Massachusetts, and Mr. Allen did not find it common near Springfield. On one occasion I found one of these birds in April, at Nahant. It was apparently migrating, and had sought shelter in the rocky cliffs of that peninsula. It was greatly bewildered by the light, and was several times almost on the point of being captured by hand.

This Owl is not unfrequently kept in confinement. It seems easily reconciled to captivity, becomes quite tame, suffers itself to be handled by strangers without resenting the familiarity, but is greatly excited at the sight of mice or rats. Captain Bland had one of these birds in captivity at Halifax, which he put into the same room with a rat. The bird immediately attacked and killed the rat, but died soon after of exhaustion.

The notes of this Owl, during the breeding-season, are said to resemble the noise made by the filing of a saw, and it is known in certain localities as the Saw-Whet. Mr. Audubon, on one occasion, hearing these notes in a forest, and unaware of their source, imagined he was in the vicinity of a saw-mill.

According to Mr. Audubon, this Owl breeds in hollow trees, or in the deserted nests of other birds; and lays from four to six glossy-white eggs, which are almost spherical. He states, also, that he found near Natchez a nest in the broken stump of a small decayed tree not more than four feet high. He also mentions the occasional occurrence of one of these Owls in the midst of one of our crowded cities. One of them was thus taken in Cincinnati, where it was found resting on the edge of a child's cradle. Mr. McCulloch, quoted by Audubon, gives an interesting account of the notes and the ventriloquial powers of this bird. On one occasion he heard what seemed to him to be the faint notes of a distant bell. Upon approaching the place from which these sounds proceeded, they appeared at one time to be in front of him, then behind him, now on his right hand, now on his left, again at a great distance, and then close behind him. At last he dis-

covered the bird at the entrance of a small hole in a birch-tree, where it was calling to its mate. As he stood at the foot of the tree, in full sight of the bird, he observed the singular power it possessed of altering its voice, making it seem near or remote,— a faculty which he had never noticed in any other bird.

An egg given me by Mr. Rufus R. Winslow as one of this bird, and figured in the North American Oölogy, was undoubtedly that of a Woodpecker. It is of a crystalline whiteness, nearly spherical, and measures 1.13 inches in length by .87 of an inch in breadth.

A well-identified egg in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, taken by Mr. R. Christ at Nazareth, Penn., (No. 14,538, S. I.,) measures .95 of an inch by .88. The two ends are exactly similar or symmetrical. The egg is white, and is marked as having been collected April 25, 1867.

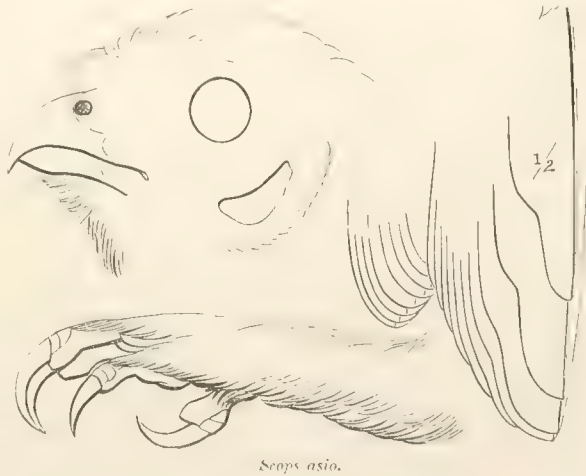
### GENUS **SCOPS**, SAVIGNY.

*Scops*, SAVIGNY, 1809. (Type, *Strix scops*, L. = *Scops zorca* (GM.) SWAINS.)

*Ephialtes*, KAYS. & BL. 1840, *non* SCHRANK, 1802.

*Megascops*, KAUP, 1848. (Type, *Strix asio*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Size small, the head provided with ear-tufts. Bill light-colored; iris yellow. Three to four outer quills with inner webs sinuated. Wings long (more than twice the length of the tail, which is short and slightly rounded); second to fifth quills longest. Toes naked, or only scantily feathered. Ear-conch small and simple. Plumage exceedingly variegated, the colors different shades of brown, with rufous, black, and white, in fine mottlings and pencillings; feathers above and below usually with blackish shaft-streaks, those beneath usually with five transverse bars; primaries spotted with whitish, and outer webs of the lower row of scapulars the same edged terminally with black. Tail obscurely banded.



The species of this genus are cosmopolitan, the greater number, however, being found in tropical regions. All the American species differ from *S. zorca* of Europe in having the fourth and fifth quills longest, instead of the second, and in having three to four, instead of only two, of the outer

quills with the inner web sinuated, as well as in having the quills shorter, broader, and more bowed, and their under surface more concave. They may, perhaps, be distinguished as a separate subgenus (*Megascops*, Kaup). Of the American species all but *S. asio* (including its several races) have the toes perfectly naked to their very bases.

#### Species and Races.

**COMMON CHARACTERS.** Plumage above smoky-brown and whitish, finely mottled above; lower parts transversely barred, and with dark shaft-streaks. Outer webs of lower scapulars light-colored (white or ochraceous) and without markings. Tail crossed by rather obscure mottled light and dark bars of nearly equal width. Outer webs of primaries with nearly equal bands of whitish and black.

1. ***S. asio*.** Toes covered (more or less densely) with bristles, or hair-like feathers. Wing, 5.50-7.80; tail, 3.20-4.10; culmen, .50-.70; tarsus, 1.00-1.70; middle toe, .70-.80. Ear-tufts well developed; facial circle black.

Colors smoky-brown and pale fulvous, with little or none of pure white. Outer webs of the scapulars pale ochraceous-fulvous. Wing, 6.90-7.30; tail, 3.50-4.50. *Hab.* North Pacific region, from Western Idaho and Washington Territory, northward to Sitka.

*var. leucicincti.*

Colors ashy-gray and pure white, with little or none of fulvous. Outer webs of the scapulars pure white. Varying to bright brick-red, or lateritious-rufous.

Mottlings coarse, the blackish median streaks above not sharply defined, and the bars beneath heavy and distinct.

Wing, 6.10-7.75; tail, 3.30-4.35. In the red plumage, white prevailing on the lower parts, where the red markings are not broken into transverse bars. *Hab.* United States; except the Southern Middle Province, the northwest region, and Florida . . . . . *var. asio.*

Wing, 5.50-6.00 tail, 2.75-3.10. In the red plumage, red prevailing on the lower parts, where the markings are much broken into transverse bars. *Hab.* Florida and Southern Georgia . . . . . *var. floridanus.*

Wing, 5.50-5.80; tail, 3.20-3.30. Gray plumage, like *var. asio*, but the mottling above much coarser, and the nape with a strongly indicated collar of rounded white spots in pairs, on opposite webs. Red plumage not seen. *Hab.* Eastern Mexico and Guatemala . . . . . *var. enano.*<sup>1</sup>

Mottlings fine, the blackish median streaks above very sharply defined and conspicuous; bars beneath delicate and indistinct.

<sup>1</sup> *Syrnium*, *var. enano*, LAWRENCE, MSS. This well-marked race is founded upon two specimens, — one from Mexico, in the cabinet of Mr. Lawrence, and another from Guatemala, in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. They are exactly similar in colors; but, as might be expected, the more southern specimen is the smaller of the two. This form very closely resembles the *S. atricapilla* (NATT.) STEPH. (Temm. Pl. Col. 145), but may be readily distinguished by the haired toes, they being perfectly naked in *atricapilla*. The latter species is found as far northward as Mirador.

Wing, 6.20–6.50; tail, 3.35–3.50. *Hab.* Southern Middle Province, and Southern California; Cape St. Lucas.

var. *maculati*.

2. **S. flammeola.** Toes perfectly naked, the feathering of the tarsus terminating abruptly at the lower joint. Wing, 5.40; tail, 2.80; culmen, .35; tarsus, .90; middle toe, .55. Ear-tufts short, or rudimentary. Facial circle rusty. Outer webs of the scapulars rusty-ochraceous, in striking contrast to the grayish of the wings and back. Other markings and colors much as in *asio*. *Hab.* Mountain regions of Mexico and California, from Guatemala to Fort Crook, Northern California.

## Scops asio, BONAP.

### LITTLE RED OWL; MOTTLED OWL; "SCREECH-OWL."

*Noctua aurita minor*, CATESBY, Carol. I, 1754, 7, pl. vii. *Asio scops carolinensis*, BRISS. Orn. I, 1760, 497. *Strix asio*, LINN. Syst. Nat. 1758, 92. — GMEL. S. N. 1789, 287. — LATH. Ind. Orn. 1790, 51. — IB. Syn. I, 123. — IB. Suppl. I, 42; Gen. Hist. I, 314. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 1800, 216. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 1809, 229. — TEMM. Pl. Col. 89. — WILS. Am. Orn. 1808, pl. xlii, f. 1. — JARD. (ed. WILS.) Orn. I, 1831, 307. — BONAP. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. II, 36. — IB. Isis, 1832, 1139. — AUDUBON, Birds N. A. 1831, pl. xcvi. — IB. Orn. Biog. I, 486. — BREWER (ed. WILS.) Orn. 1852, p. 687. — HOBBS, Nat. 1855, 169. *Bubo asio*, VIEILL. Ois. Am., Sept., 1807, 53, pl. xxi. — GIRAUD, Birds Long Island, 1844, 28. — MAX. Cab. J. VI, 1853, 23. *Otus asio*, STEPHENS, Zool. XIII, pt. ii, 1815, 57. *Scops asio*, BONAP. List, 1838, 6. — LESS. Tr. Orn. 107. — CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. 1854, 179. — IB. Birds N. Am. 1858, 51. — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, 112. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 199. — HEERM. P. R. Rept. II, 1855, 35. — COOP. & SUCKL. P. R. Rept. 155. — MAYNARD, Birds Eastern Mass., 1870, 131. — COUES, Key, 1872, 202. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 46. *Ephialtes asio*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. 1844, sp. 9. — IB. List Birds Brit. Mus. 1844, p. 96. — WOODH. 1853, 62. *Strix nœvia*, GMEL. S. N. 1789, 289. — LATH. Ind. Orn. 1790, p. 55. — IB. Syn. I, 126; Gen. Hist. I, 321. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 1800, 217. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 1809, 230. — WILS. Am. Orn. 1808, pl. xix, f. 1. *Asio nœvia*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 1828, 117. *Otus nœvius*, CUV. Reg. An. (ed. 2), I, 1829, 341. *Surnia nœvia*, JAMES. (ed. WILS.), Orn., 1831, I, 96 & 99.

#### a. Normal plumage.

**SP. CHAR. Adult.** Ground-color above brownish-cinereous, palest on the head, purest ashy on the wings, minutely mottled with fine zigzag transverse bars of black, each feather with a medial ragged stripe of the same along the shaft. Inner webs of ear-tufts, outer webs of scapulars, and oval spots occupying most of the outer webs of the two or three lower feathers of the middle and secondary wing-coverts, white, forming (except on the first) conspicuous spots, those of the scapulars bordered with black. Secondaries crossed with about seven regular paler bands, each enclosing a more irregular dusky one; the ground-color, however, is so mottled with grayish, and the pale bands with dusky, that they are by no means sharply defined or conspicuous, though they are very regular; alula and primary coverts more sharply barred with cream-colored spots, those on the former nearly white; primaries with broad quadrate spots of creamy-white on outer webs, these forming from seven (♂) to eight (♀) transverse bands, the last of which is not terminal. Tail more irregularly mottled than the wings, and crossed by seven (♂) to eight (♀) narrow, obsolete, but continuous, pale bands.

Eye-brows white, the feathers bordered with dusky (most broadly so in ♂); cheeks, ear-coverts, and lower throat dull white, with transverse bars of blackish (most numerous



in the ♂); chin immaculate; upper eyelid dark brown; facial circle black; neck and jugulum like the cheeks, but more strongly barred, and with blackish along the shaft. Ground-color of the lower parts white, each feather with a medial stripe of black, this throwing off distinct bars to the edge of the feather; the medial black is largest on sides of the breast, where it expands into very large conspicuous spots, having a slight rusty exterior suffusion; the abdomen medially, the anal region, and the lower tail-coverts, are almost unvaried white. Tibiæ and tarsi in the male dull white, much barred transversely with blackish; in the female, pale ochraceous, more sparsely barred with dark brownish. Lining of the wing creamy-white, varied only along the edge; light bars on under surface of primaries very obsolete.

♂ (16,027, Fort Crook, North California; John Feilner). Wing, 6.70; tail, 3.80; culmen, .61; tarsus, 1.35; middle toe, .72; ear-tufts, 1.00; wing-formula, 3 = 4, 5 - 2, 6, 1 = 9. "Length, 9.50; extent, 23.75."

♀ (18,299, Hellgate, Montana; Jno. Pearsall). Wing, 7.80; tail, 4.10; culmen, .70; tarsus, 1.70; middle toe, .80; ear-tufts, 1.00.

*Young* ♂ (No. 29,738, Wood's Hole, Mass., July 25, 1863; S. F. Baird. "Parent gray"). Secondaries, primaries, and tail, as in the adult, gray plumage; but the latter more mottled, the bands confused. Rest of the plumage everywhere grayish-white, with numerous transverse bars of dusky-brown; eyebrows and lores scarcely variegated dull white; facial circle obsolete.

♀ (41,891, Philadelphia, Penn.; J. Krider). Whole head, neck, back, rump, and entire lower parts transversely barred with dark brown and grayish-white, the bands of the former on the upper parts rather exceeding the white in width, but on the lower surface much narrower; scapulars with large transverse spots of white on the outer webs. Wings and tail as in the adult. Facial disk conspicuous. (More advanced in age than the preceding.)

*b. Rufescent plumage.*

*Adult.* General pattern of the preceding; but the grayish tints replaced by lateritious-rufous, very fine and bright, with a slight vinaceous cast: this is uniform, and shows no trace of the transverse dark mottling; there are, however, black shaft-lines to the feathers (these most conspicuous on the head above, and scapulars, and narrower and more sharply defined than in the gray plumage). The inner webs of the ear-tufts, outer webs of scapulars, and lower secondary and middle wing-coverts, are white, as in the gray plumage; those of the scapulars are also bordered with black. The secondaries, primaries, and tail are less bright rufous than the other portions, the markings as in the gray plumage, only the tints being different. The upper eyelid, and, in fact, all round the eye, fine light rufous; cheeks and ear-coverts paler, scarcely variegated; black facial circle rather narrower than in the gray plumage. Lower parts without the transverse bars of the gray plumage, but in their place an irregular clouding of fine light red, like the back; the lower parts medially (very broadly) immaculate snowy-white; most of the feathers having the red spotting show black shaft-stripes, but the pectoral spots are not near so large or conspicuous as in the gray bird. Tibiæ fine pale ochraceous-rufous; tarsi the same posteriorly, in front white with cuneate specks of rufous; lower tail-coverts each with a medial transversely cordate spot of dilute rufous, the shaft black. Lining of the wing with numerous rufous spots.

♂ (12,045, Washington, D. C., January). Wing, 6.30; tail, 3.00.

♀ (22,512, Maryland; R. G. Campbell). Wing, 6.70; tail, 3.50.

*Young* (29,792, Peoria, Illinois; Ferd. Bischoff). Wings and tail as in adult; markings on head and body as in the young gray bird, but white bars more reddish, and dark ones more brown.

*HAB.* Temperate North America, from the South Atlantic States to Oregon, and from the northern United States to Texas. Replaced in the southern Middle Province and



Southern California by var. *maccalli*, in Florida by var. *floridana*, and on the north-western coast region by var. *kennicotti*.

Localities: (?) Cuba (CABANIS, Journ. III, 465).

The above stages of plumage have caused ornithologists a great deal of perplexity; and it is only very recently that they have become correctly understood. Even yet many persist in regarding the red plumage as being that of the young bird.

That these two very different plumages are entirely independent of age, sex, or season, and that they are purely individual, there can be no doubt; since in one nest there may often be found both red and gray young ones, while their parents may be either both red or both gray, the male red and the female gray, or *vice versa*. Occasionally specimens (such as No. 39,093, ♂, Neosho Falls, Kansas, April 13; parent of five eggs, and captured on the nest with a gray male) are exactly intermediate between these two plumages, it being difficult to decide which predominates; the combination is not only of the tints, but of the markings, of the two stages.



*Scops asio.*

**HABITS.** The habit of all the varieties of *Scops asio* in their different localities will be found after their zoölogical description.

### ***Scops asio*, var. *floridana*, RIDGWAY.**

*Scops asio*, ALLEN, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. and other citations from Florida.

**CHAR.** Similar to var. *asio*, but much smaller, and the colors deeper. The gray stage very similar to that of var. *asio*, but the red phase very appreciably different, in there being a greater amount of rufous on the lower parts, the breast being nearly uniformly colored, and the rufous broken elsewhere into transverse broad bars, connected along the shaft. Wing, 5.50–6.00; tail, 2.75–3.10.

**HAB.** Florida and Lower Georgia.

This extreme southern form is much smaller than the more northern ones, being about the same in size as the var. *enano* (see p. 1374) of Middle

America, and the *S. atricapilla*, Temm., of Tropical America generally. The colors, as may be expected, are also darker and richer.

In the collection of the Smithsonian Institution there are both red and gray birds from Florida; a red one (No. 5,857, Indian River; Dr. A. W. Wall) measures, wing, 5.50; tail, 2.70; culmen, .55; tarsus, 1.05; middle toe, .65; ear-tufts, .70. The colors are much darker than those of typical *asio*. The rufous of the neck, all around, shows obsolete darker transverse bars; the black border to the white scapular spots is restricted to the tip, as in the gray plumage; the inner webs of the ear-tufts are scarcely paler than the outer; the neck and face are deeper rufous, while the rufous of the lower parts is more general, and more in transverse rays; tibiae and tarsi plain rufous; the middle of the abdomen and the anal region only are pure white.

### **Scops asio, var. maccalli, CASS.**

#### **WESTERN MOTTLED OWL.**

*Scops maccalli*, CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. p. 180, 1850; Birds N. Am. 1858, 52. — STRECKL. Orn. Syn. I, 200, 1865. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz., p. 13, 1869. — SCH. & SALV. P. Z. S., 1868, 57 (= *trichopsis*, WAGL. Isis, 1832, 276; see remarks below). — BAILEY, Mex. Bound. II, 4, pl. i. — Gray, Hand List, I, 47, 1869. *Scops asio*, var. *maccalli* (RIDGWAY) COUES, Key, 1872, 203. *Ephedrus chadleri* (not of Vieillot), LAWR. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. VI, 1853, p. 4.

**CHAR.** *Adult* (9,147, Camp 118, New Mexico, February 10, 1854; Kennerly and Möllhausen). Above cinereous, the ashy appearance being caused by a minute transverse mottling of blackish and pale ashy, on a deeper ash ground; each feather with a distinct medial stripe of black, these broadest on the forehead; outer webs of only a few scapulars white, these not bordered with black; outer webs of two or three lower middle and secondary coverts white. Secondaries with about seven transverse, mottled pale bands; primaries with about eight transverse series of white spots; tail with about eight narrow pale bands.

Ear-coverts, cheeks, throat, neck, and jugulum finely and uniformly barred transversely with dusky and grayish-white; the facial circle interrupted across the throat, where in its place is a series of longitudinal black dashes.

Lower parts grayish-white, with numerous, very narrow transverse bars of dusky, rather more distant from each other than those of the neck, etc.; each feather with a medial narrow stripe of black, those on the breast forming conspicuous spots; tibiae and tarsi dull soiled white, with numerous spots of dark brown; lower tail-coverts immaculate. Wing-formula, 3 = 4-2, 5, 6, 7, 8-1-9. Wing, 6.50; tail, 3.30; culmen, .55; tarsus, 1.15; middle toe, .70; ear-tufts, .85.

(A specimen from California (Stockton, E. S. Holden), kindly sent by Mr. Lawrence for examination, differs from the preceding in rather more brown ground-color above; the black shaft-streaks more obscure. In other respects as regards plumage it is the same, and is typical *maccalli*. The size is less, it measuring, wing, 6.20; tail, 3.10.)

*Young* (first full, but incomplete plumage; 16,932, Cape St. Lucas, Lower California). Secondaries, primaries, and tail as in the gray adult. Rest of the plumage transversely barred with grayish-white and dusky, the latter predominating on the upper parts; eyebrows and lores white; rings finely transversely mottled with white, this forming spots

on the lower feathers; tibia and tarsi with numerous transverse dusky bars. Wing, 5.40; tail, 2.65; tarsi, 1.00; middle toe, .63. No. 16,933 (same locality, etc.) is similar, but smaller, measuring, 5.00, 2.00, 1.00, and .60.

HAB. Southern Middle Province of United States; Lower and Southern California.

Localities. (?) Oaxaca (SCL. 1858, 296); (?) Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I, 220); (?) Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1856, 330).

While the *Scops maccalli* is without doubt to be distinguished from *S. asio*, its being specifically distinct is not a matter of so much certainty; with a simple statement of the differences between the two, I shall leave the value of these differences to the appreciation of each one, according to his own fancy. The species is represented in the collection by but four specimens, two adult and two young. I have not seen the red plumage as described by Cassin.

The characters of this race, as given in the diagnosis, appear to be really constant; and there is not a specimen in the series of those from the west which may not readily be referred to one or the other.

The gray adult *maccalli* differs from that of *asio* in the much finer mottling of the general plumage; the medial black stripes of the feathers above being more sharply defined, and more distinct from the transverse zigzags. Below, the transverse dark bars are much finer, and nearer together. The face, neck, and jugulum more finely and uniformly barred. The white scapular spots have not the black border seen in *asio*. The size is smaller.

The young of *maccalli* differs from that of *asio* in much finer bars above, the dusky rather prevailing; below, also, the bars are finer and nearer together.

It is not necessary to compare this bird with any other than the *S. asio*, since it is not at all related to *choliba*, or any other southern species.

*Scops maccalli* is entirely distinct from the *S. trichopsis*, Wagler, notwithstanding the statement in the Ibis, for April, 1872 (p. 6), that "the name" is "really synonymous with *S. trichopsis* of Wagler, the bird being quite distinct from *S. asio*, as has been pointed out elsewhere." (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 57.)

### **Scops asio, var. kennicotti, ELLIOT.**

#### **KENNICOTT'S OWL.**

*Scops kennicotti*, ELLIOT, PR. AC. NAT. SC. PHIL. 1867, p. 69; Illust. Am. Birds, pl. xi. — BAIRD, Trans. Chicago Acad. Sc. I, II, 311, pl. xxvii, 1869. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chic. Ac. I, 1869, 273. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 47, 1869. — ELLIOT, Illust. Birds Am. I, xxvii. — FINSCH, Abh. Nat. III, 25. — *Scops asio*, var. *kennicotti*, (RIDGWAY) COUES, Key, 1872, 203. ? *Scops asio*, COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, II, 155, 1860 (all citations from northwest coast).

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, 59,847, Sitka, Alaska, March, 1866; Ferd. Bischoff. Elliott's type). Above umber-brown, with a reddish cast; feathers confusedly mottled trans-

versely with dusky, and showing rounded spots of rufous, most conspicuous on the nape; each feather with a conspicuous medial broad ragged stripe of black, these stripes most conspicuous on the forehead and scapulars; outer webs of scapulars light rufous, bordered terminally with black. Wings of a more grayish cast than the back, but similarly variegated; lower feathers of the middle and secondary wing-coverts, each with a large oval pale rufous spot, covering most of the lower web. Secondaries crossed by six narrow obscure bands of pale rufous; primaries with seven somewhat rounded, quadrate spots of the same on the outer webs, forming as many transverse series; each light spot with a central dusky mottling. Tail more finely and confusedly mottled than the wings; the bands, though present, are so obsolete as to be scarcely traceable, and so irregular or badly defined as to be of uncertain number. The ear-tufts are black and rusty, the former along the shafts, and in transverse spots; on the outer webs the black predominates, on the inner the rusty.

The lores and basal half of the frontal bristles are white, the terminal half abruptly black; eyebrows about equally blackish and paler, the former bordering the feathers; eye surrounded by dark snuff-brown; cheeks and ear-coverts pale rusty, transversely barred with deeper rusty; facial circle not well defined, black. Chin and lores only white.

Ground-color of the lower parts dilute-rusty, becoming white on the flanks; each feather of the throat, jugulum, breast, sides, and flanks with a broad medial stripe of black, this throwing off very narrow, rather distant, bars to the edge; the spaces between these bars are alternately paler and deeper dilute-rusty; the black marks are broadest on the sides of the breast, where they have an external deep rusty suffusion; the abdomen medially, and the anal region, are scarcely maculate rusty-white; the lower tail-coverts have each a central cuneate longitudinal stripe of black. Tibiæ, tarsi, and lining of the wing, plain deep rusty. Wing-formula,  $3 = 4$ ,  $5 - 2$ ,  $6 - 1 = 9$ . Wing, 7.40; tail, 4.00; culmen, .65; tarsus, 1.50; middle toe, .80.

No. 59,068 (Idaho; Dr. Whitehead) is considerably darker than the type, the ground-color above approaching to snuff-brown; it differs, however, in no other respect, as regards coloration; the size, however (as would be expected), is considerably smaller, measuring as follows: Wing, 6.80; tail, 3.50; culmen, .60; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, .80. Wing-formula the same as in type.

HAB. Northwestern coast of North America, from Columbia River, northward; Idaho (Dr. Whitehead).

No. 4,530 (Washington Territory; Dr. Geo. Suckley) is just intermediate in all respects between typical *kennicotti* and *asio*, being referrible to either with equal propriety, though perhaps inclining most to the former.

This well-marked form is, according to recognized laws, properly to be regarded as only an extremely dark northwestern form of *Scops asio*. There is no deviation from the specific pattern of coloration, the difference being merely in the tints; while in this it corresponds in every way with other species as modified in the northwest coast region; the somewhat greater size, too, merely results from its more northern habitat.

The only characters which we find in *kennicotti* which cannot be recognized in *asio* are the smaller, more quadrate, and more rufous spots on the primaries, and more obsolete bands on the tail; but this is merely the consequence of the greater extension of the brown markings, thus necessarily contracting the lighter spots. In these respects only does the Washington Territory specimen differ from the two typical examples before us, having



the larger, more whitish, spots on primaries, and more distinct tail-bands, of *asio*.

The *Scops kennicotti* must, however, be recognized as a well-marked geographical race, and, not taking into consideration any natural laws which influence changes in species, it would be very proper to recognize the validity of the present bird. If, however, the rule of which we speak will apply



*Scops asio* var. *kennicotti*.

to others, as indeed it does to a majority of the birds of the region inhabited by the *Scops kennicotti*, the extreme conditions of some species of which are even more widely different than in the present instance, and which have been referred to their lighter representatives in consequence of the applicability of this law, we cannot possibly do otherwise with it.

In general appearance, size, and proportions, as well as in pattern and tints of coloration, except in their details, there is a wonderfully close resemblance in this race of *S. asio* to the *S. semitorques*, Schlegel, of Japan. Indeed, it is probable that the latter is also a mere geographical form of the same species. The only tangible points of difference are that in *semitorques* the jugulum is distinctly white centrally, there is a quite well-defined lighter nuchal band, with a more indistinct occipital one above it, and the pencilings on the lower parts are more delicate. The size and proportions are essentially the same; the shades of color are identical, while the markings differ only in minute detail, their pattern being essentially the same. In *kennicotti* the light nuchal collars are indicated, though they do not approach the distinctness shown by them in *semitorques*. Should they be considered



as races of one species (*S. asio*), their differential characters may be expressed as follows:

Var. *semitorques*.<sup>1</sup> A well-defined nuchal collar, of mottled pale ochraceous; jugulum immaculate white centrally. Feathers of the lower parts with their transverse pencillings growing fainter towards the middle line, which is unvariegated white, from the central jugular spot to the anal region. Wing, 6.60–7.10; tail, 3.60–3.70; culmen, .60; tarsus, 1.25–1.40; middle toe, .80–.90. (Two specimens.) *Hab.* Japan.

Var. *kennicotti*. No well-defined nuchal band; jugulum closely barred centrally; feathers of the lower parts with their transverse pencillings not growing fainter toward the middle line, which is unvariegated white only on the abdominal portion; the medial black streaks to the feathers of the lower surface much broader, and transverse pencillings rather coarser. Wing, 6.90–7.30; tail, 3.50–4.50; culmen, .60–.65; tarsus, 1.35–1.45; middle toe, .80–.90. (Three specimens.) *Hab.* North Pacific coast of North America from Sitka to Washington Territory, and Western Idaho.

The zoölogical characters of the different varieties of the *Scops asio* having been thus indicated, we proceed to consider the species as a whole, and to point out the more important features of its habits and history.

**HABITS.** The common Mottled Owl has an extended distribution throughout the temperate portion of North America. It is also the most numerous of this family wherever found. It does not appear to have been detected in any part of the Arctic regions. Although given on the authority of Fabricius as a bird of Greenland, it is not retained in the list of Reinhardt. It was not met with by Richardson, nor is any reference made to it in any of the Arctic notes furnished by Mr. MacFarlane or others. It is quite common throughout New England, as well as in the Central, the Western, and some of the Southern States. Mr. Boardman gives it as resident, but not very common, near Calais, where it breeds. It is found near Hamilton, Canada, according to McIlwraith, but it is not common, although Dr. Hall found it quite numerous in the vicinity of Montreal. Mr. Downes does not mention its occurrence in Nova Scotia. It was found breeding by Dr. Lincecum, at Long Point, Texas. It occurs in California, and as *Scops kennicotti* as far to the northwest as Sitka.

The Mottled Owl is nocturnal in its habits, never appearing abroad in the daylight except when driven out by the attacks of hostile birds that have discovered it in its retreat. Its eyes cannot endure the light, and it experiences great inconvenience from such an exposure. During the day it hides in hollow trees, in dark recesses in the forests, or in dark corners of barns, and comes out from its retreat just before dark. During the night it utters a very peculiar wailing cry, not unlike the half-whining, half-barking complaints of a young puppy, alternating from high to low,

<sup>1</sup> *Scops semitorques*, SCHLEGEL, Fauna Japonica, t. 8. For the privilege of comparing specimens of this bird with *S. kennicotti*, I am indebted to the courtesy of the officers of the New York Museum, who kindly sent the fine specimens of that museum for examination.

intermingled with deep guttural trills. These cries, which are sometimes prolonged until after midnight, usually elicit an answer from its mate or companions, and would seem to be uttered as a call soliciting a reply from some lost associate. When kept in confinement the Mottled Owl soon becomes familiarized to its new mode of life, and rarely attempts to injure its captors, though it will at first snap its bill in a threatening manner and manifest considerable irritation on being approached or handled. In the daytime they keep secluded, appear sleepy or stupid, with half-closed eyes, but, as night approaches, become quite lively and eager for their food. They utter their nocturnal cries in confinement, the doleful sounds of which are in singular contrast with the lively and excited air of the birds as they utter them. Their flight is noiseless and gliding, and they move in a manner so nearly silent as to be hardly perceptible. They are excellent mousers, and swallow their food whole, ejecting the indigestible parts, such as hair, bones, feathers, etc.

Wilson caught an adult bird, and kept it in confinement some time. At first it was restless and attempted to escape, beating against the glass of the window repeatedly, and several times with so much violence as to stun itself. In a few days it was reconciled to its situation, and became quite tame and familiar, and in the evening was very lively, sprightly, and active.

The food of the Screech-Owl is chiefly small quadrupeds, insects, and occasionally, when they have young, small birds. They destroy a vast number of mice, beetles, and vermin, and are of great service to the agriculturist, although their services are not appreciated, and they are everywhere persecuted and hunted down without mercy or justice.

The nest of this species is usually constructed in hollow trees or stumps, most frequently in orchards in the vicinity of farm-houses, and not more than six or seven feet from the ground. Mr. Audubon states, however, that he has sometimes found them at the height of thirty or forty. To show the provident habits of this Owl in procuring for its young a great superabundance of food, Mr. Nuttall mentions finding in the hollow stump of an apple-tree, which contained a single brood of these young Owls, several Bluebirds, Blackbirds, and Song-Sparrows.

Dr. Cooper, on the other hand, relates an instance where one of these Owls resided as an inmate in a dove-cot, where it was not known to do any injury to its inmates.

The Screech-Owl can hardly be said to construct any nest, but lines the hollow in which it rears its young with a few loose leaves, dry grasses, and feathers. The eggs are usually five or six in number; they are pure white, and nearly round. Their average measurement is 1.38 inches in length by 1.19 in breadth.

In regard to the distinctive peculiarities of var. *maccalli*, we are in possession of but little information. Its habits probably do not essentially vary from those of the common *Scops asio*, which it so closely resembles in other

respects, and of which it is to be regarded as a geographical race. It was first taken by Mr. E. S. Holden, near Sacramento, and described by Mr. Lawrence as the *Ephialtes choliba* of Vieillot. It has since been found in other parts of California, in Northern Mexico, Arizona, and on the Rio Grande. It was obtained in Tamaulipas—where it is evidently rather common—by the late Dr. Berlandier, who had also procured its eggs. A single specimen of this Owl was obtained by Mr. A. Schott in Texas, and Mr. Dresser also obtained two small Owls which he doubtfully refers to this variety,—one near San Antonio, and the other in Bandera County. Lieutenant Bendire writes that it is quite common in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona, though Dr. Coues did not meet with it. Dr. Kennerly observed it on Bill Williams Fork, in New Mexico. It was there found living in the large *Cercus giganteus* so common in that region, where it occupied the deserted holes of various kinds of Woodpeckers. It rarely made its appearance during the day, and then only to show its head from the hole, ready at any moment to disappear at the approach of danger. On one occasion it was observed among some very thick bushes near the water. It does not appear to have been met with by Dr. Cooper in California, where he refers all the Owls of this genus to the common *asio*. A single individual, referred doubtfully to this bird, was taken by Mr. Skinner in Guatemala. The eggs of this bird, taken in Tamaulipas by Dr. Berlandier, are of nearly globular shape, of a clear, almost crystal-white color, and measure 1.13 inches in length by 0.93 of an inch in breadth. As compared with the eggs of *Scops asio* they are much smaller, their relative capacity being only as five to eight.

The eggs of the var. *asio* vary greatly in size according to their locality. Those taken in Florida are so much smaller than those from Massachusetts as almost to be suggestive of specific differences. An egg from Hudson, Mass., taken by Mr. Jillson in April, 1870, measures 1.50 by 1.30 inches, while one from Monticello, Fla., taken by Mr. Samuel Pasco, measures 1.30 by 1.15 inches. Mr. T. H. Jackson, of Westchester, Penn., informs me that he has found a nest of this Owl containing six fresh eggs, on the 5th of April.

### **Scops flammeola, LIGHT.**

#### **FEILNER'S OWL.**

*Scops flammeola*, LIGHT. Mus. Berol. Nomenclat. p. 7, 1854. — KAUP, Trans. Zool. Soc. IV, 226. — SCHLEGEL, Mus. de Pays-Bas, *Ovi*, p. 27. — SCLAT. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, 96. — SEL. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1868, 57; Exot. Orn. VII, 99, pl. 1, July, 1868. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 47, 1869. — ELLIOT, Illust. Birds Am. I, pl. xxviii. — COUES, Key, 1872, 203.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (42,159, Orizaba Mountains, "rare," February 3, 1865; Professor F. Sumichrast). Ground-color above pale cinereous, this overlaid on the top of the head, nape, and back by a brownish-olive shade, the ash showing pure only on the borders

of the crown and on the wing-coverts and scapulars; the whole upper surface transversely mottled with white and blackish, the latter in the form of fine zigzag lines and a splash along the shaft, this expanding transversely near the end of the feather; the white is in the form of larger transverse spots, these largest across the nape. Outer webs of the scapulars fine light orange-rufous (becoming white beneath the surface), bordered terminally with black. Coverts along the lower edge of the wing spotted with pale rufous; outer webs of the several lower feathers of the middle and secondary wing-coverts with a large conspicuous spot of white. Secondaries crossed by four well-defined narrow pale ochraceous bands; primary coverts transversely spotted with the same; primaries with about five transverse series of very large white spots on the outer webs, the spots approaching ochraceous next the shaft and towards the end of the feather. Tail profusely mottled like the back, and crossed with about five ragged, badly defined pale bands, the last of which is not terminal. Ear-tufts inconspicuous.

Eyebrow white, feathers bordered with blackish; eye encircled with rusty rufous; lores strongly tinged with the same; cheeks, ear-coverts, neck, and jugulum with numerous transverse dusky bars upon a grayish-white ground. Facial circle rusty-rufous spotted with black; throat with a tinge of rufous; chin white.

Lower parts, in general, white; each feather with a black shaft-stripe, this throwing off bars in pairs, across the feather; the medial stripes are very broad, forming longitudinal spots on the breast, and have here an external rufous suffusion; lower tail-coverts very sparsely marked. Tibiæ and tarsi white, with very sparse transverse dusky spots. Lining of the wing plain yellowish-white; bars on under surface of primaries very obsolete, except basally. Wing-formula,  $3 = 4$ ;  $5$ ,  $2 - 6$ ;  $1 = 8$ . Wing, 5.40; tail, 2.45; culmen, .35; tarsus, .87; middle toe, .55.

*Young* (first full, but imperfect plumage: ♂, 24,172, Fort Crook, North California, August 23, 1860; John Feilner). Wings and tail as in the adult (last pale band of latter

apparently terminal). Whole head and body with numerous, about equal, transverse bands of dusky and grayish-white; the two colors about equal, but on lower parts both are much wider and more distinct than above the white gradually increasing posteriorly. Breast and outer webs of scapulars with a rusty tinge, the latter scarcely variegated. Eyebrow white, feathers bordered with dusky; eye-circle and ear-coverts bright rusty-rufous; lores much tinged with the same. No facial circle. Wing, 5.50; tail, 2.70.

*HAB.* Guatemala and central Mexico, northward (along Sierra Nevada) to Fort Crook; California (breeding).

*HABITS.* This is essentially a Mexican and Central American species, occurring among the mountains of Mexico and thence to Guatemala. One individual, however, the only one as yet recorded as taken in the United States, was obtained at Fort Crook by Captain John Feilner, and is now in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution. This was a young bird, evidently raised in that locality, and apparently showing that the species breeds in that vicinity. It has been taken also at Orizaba, in the State of



*Scops flammeola.*



Vera Cruz, Mexico. Nothing is known as to any peculiarities of habit. These are not probably different from those of the *asio*.

### GENUS **BUBO**, DUM.

GEN. CHAR. Size varying from medium to very large; head with or without ear-tufts. Bill black, iris yellow. Two to four outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. Third or fourth quill longest. Bill very robust, the lower mandible nearly truncated and with a deep notch near the end; cere gradually ascending basally (not arched) or nearly straight, not equal to the culmen. Tail short, a little more than half the wing, slightly rounded. Ear-conch small, simple, without operculum; the two ears symmetrical.

#### Subgenera.

**Bubo.** Two to three outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. Ear-tufts well developed; loral feathers not hiding the bill, and the claws and terminal scutellæ of the toes exposed. Lower tail-coverts not reaching the end of the tail. (Type, *B. maximus*.)

**Nyctea.** Four outer quills with their inner webs emarginated. Ear-tufts rudimentary; loral feathers hiding the bill, and claws and entire toes concealed by long hair-like feathers. Lower tail-coverts reaching to end of the tail. (Type, *N. scandiaca*.)

The species of this genus are mostly of very large size, two of them (*B. maximus* and *N. scandiaca*) being the largest birds of the family. They are nearly cosmopolitan, and are most numerous in the Eastern Hemisphere.

### SUBGENUS **BUBO**, DUM.

*Bubo*, DUMERIL, 1806. (Type, *Strix bubo*, LINN. = *B. maximus*, SIEB.)

*Rhinastur*, KAUP, 1849. (Type, *Strix macroura*, GMEL. = *B. merriami*, RIDGW.)

*Rhynchops*, KAUP, and *Rhynchopus*, KAUP, 1857. (Same type.)

#### Species and Races.

1. **B. virginianus.** Lower parts transversely barred with black, and without longitudinal stripes. Above without longitudinal stripes on the anterior portions.

*a.* A conspicuous patch of white on the jugulum; lining of the wing immaculate, or only faintly barred. Wing, 14.00–16.00; tail, 8.00–10.00; culmen, 1.10–1.20; tarsus, 2.00–2.20; middle toe, 1.95–2.10.

Rufous tints of the plumage prevailing; face dingy rufous. *Hab.*

Atlantic Province of North America . . . . . var. *virginianus*.

Lighter tints of the plumage prevailing; face dirty or fulvous white.

All the colors lighter. *Hab.* Western Province of United States, and interior regions of British America. Upper Mississippi Valley in winter (Wisconsin, Hor; Pekin, Illinois, Museum, Cambridge).

var. *arcticus*.

Dusky tints of the plumage prevailing; face dull grayish, barred with dusky. All the colors darker, chiefly brownish-black and grayish-white, with little or no rufous. *Hab.* Littoral regions of northern North

America, from Oregon northward, and around the northern coast to

Labrador . . . . . var. *pacificus*.

♂. No conspicuous patch of white on the jugulum, which, with the lining of the wing, is distinctly barred with blackish. Wing, 12.00; tail, 7.50; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 1.85.

Colors much as in var. *virginianus*, but more densely barred beneath. the dark bars narrower and closer together. *Hab.* South America.

var. *magellanicus*.<sup>1</sup>

2. **B. mexicanus**.<sup>2</sup> Lower parts longitudinally striped with black, and without transverse bars. Above with longitudinal stripes on the anterior portions. Wing, 11.20 – 12.00; tail, 6.00 – 6.50; culmen, .90; tarsus, 2.00; middle toe, 1.95. *Hab.* Middle and South America generally.

#### SUBGENUS **NYCTEA**, STEPHENS.

*Nyctea*, STEPHENS, Cont. Shaw's Zool. XIII, 62, 1826. (Type *Strix nyctea*, LINN. *N. Scandiaca*, LINN.).

#### Species and Races.

1. **N. scandiaca**. *Adult*. Color pure white, more or less barred transversely with clear dusky, or brownish-black. *Male* sometimes almost pure white. *Downy young*, sooty slate-color. Wing, 16.00 – 18.00; tail, 9.00 – 10.00.

Dusky bars sparse, narrow, umber-brown. *Hab.* Northern parts of Palearctic Realm . . . . . var. *scandiaca*.<sup>3</sup>

Dusky bars more numerous, broader, and clear brownish-black. *Hab.*

Northern parts of Nearctic Realm . . . . . var. *arctica*.

<sup>1</sup> *Bubo virginianus*, var. *magellanicus*. *Strix* (♂) *bubo magellanicus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. 1789, p. 286. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 210. — LESS. Voy. Coq. I, 617; Isis, 1833, 76. *Asio mag.* LESS. Man. Orn. I, p. 116, 1828. *Bubo mag.* GRAY, List Birds Brit. Mus. 1844, p. 46. *Strix nacurula*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. VII, 44, 1816; Enc. Méth. III, 1281, 1823. *Strix crassirostris*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. VII, 44 (1817); Enc. Méth. III, 1280. *Otus crass.* GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 6 (1844); List Birds Brit. Mus. p. 106. *Bubo crass.* BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 48 (1850). — KAUP, Monog. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, 116 (under *B. virginianus*). *Asio crass.* STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 208, 1855. *Strix macrorhyncha*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 62, 1820. *Otus? macr.* STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. ii, p. 59. *Otus macr.* CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 341. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 109. *Asio macr.* LESS. Man. Orn. I, 117.

<sup>2</sup> *Bubo mexicanus* (GMEL.) RIDGW. *Asio mexicanus*, BRISS. Orn. I, 498, 1760. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 208, 1855 (excl. syn.). *Strix mexicana*, GMEL. S. N. p. 288, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 54; Syn. I, 123; Gen. Hist. I, 314, A. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 214. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 228. — *Otus mexicanus*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. ii, p. 57. — *Bubo clamator*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. xx, 1807. *Scops cl.* GRAY, List Birds Brit. Mus. 1844, p. 45. *Strix clamata*, VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1279, 1823. *Strix longirostris*, SPIX, Av. Bras. pl. 9 a, 1824. *Strix maculata*, MAX. Beitr. III, 281, 1830. *HAB.* Middle and South America generally. A very distinct species, and a typical *Bubo*, although usually referred to the genus *Otus*.

<sup>3</sup> *Nyctea scandiaca*, var. *nivea* (see p. 000). *Strix scandiaca*, LINN. S. N. (12th ed.) I, 132 (1766). *Nyctea scandiaca*, YAWELL, Hist. Brit. B. 1872, 187. *Strix nyctea*, LINN. S. N. I, 1766, 132. *Strix nivea*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 1800. *Nyctea nivea*, GRAY, Gen. fol. sp. 1, pl. xii, f. 2.

**Bubo virginianus, var. virginianus, BONAP.****GREAT HORNED OWL.**

*Asio bubo virginianus*, BRISS. Orn. I, 184, 17, 1766. *Strix virginianus*, GIMM. Syst. Nat. I, 287, 1788. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 52; Syn. I, 119; Supp. I, 49; Gen. Hist. I, 304. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 210, pl. xiii. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. I, f. 1. — BONAP. Ann. Ly. N. Y. II, 37 and 45, Isis, 1832, p. 1139. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. lxi, 1841; Orn. Biog. I, 313. — THOMPS. Nat. Hist. Vermont, pl. lxxv. — PEAB. Birds Mass. p. 87. *Bubo virginianus*, BONAP. List, p. 6, 1838; Cons. Av. p. 48. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, p. 257. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 24, pl. x, f. 2. — NUTT. Man. Orn. p. 124. — MAX. Cab. Jour. 1853, VI, 23. — KAUP, Tr. Zool. Soc. IV, 1859, 241. — COLES, Key, 1872, 202. *Bubo virginianus atlanticus*, CASSIN, Birds of Cal. & Tex. I, 178, 1854. — Birds N. Am. 1858, 49 (under *B. virginianus*). *Otus virginianus*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, ii, 57, 1836. *Ulula virginiana*, JAMES. (WILS.), Am. Orn. I, 100, 1831. *Strix virginiana*, α, LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 306, 1821. *Strix bubo*, δ, LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 52, 1790. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 215. *Strix maximus*, BART. Trav. Carol. p. 285, 1792. *Bubo ludovicianus*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 210, 1800. *Bubo pinicola*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. xix, 1807; Enc. Méth. p. 1282.

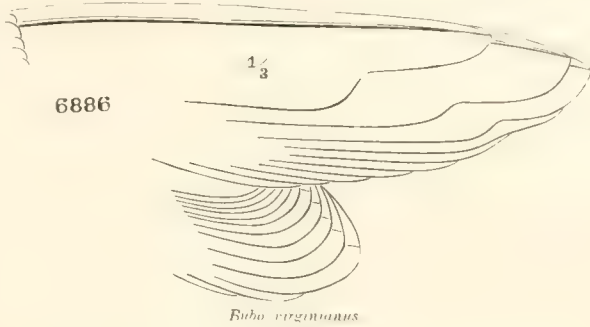
SP. CHAR. Adult ♂ (12,057, Philadelphia; C. Drexler). Bases of all the feathers yellowish-rufous, this partially exposed on the head above and nape, along the scapulars, on the rump, and sides of the breast. On the upper surface this is overlaid by a rather coarse transverse mottling of brownish-black upon a white ground, the former rather predominating, particularly on the head and neck, where it forms broad ragged longitudinal stripes (almost obliterating the transverse bars), becoming prevalent, or blended, anteriorly. The lower feathers of the scapulars, and some of the lower feathers of the middle and secondary wing-coverts, with inconspicuous transverse spots of white. On the secondaries the mottling is finer, giving a grayish aspect, and crossed with eight



sharply defined, but inconspicuous, bands of mottled dusky; primary coverts with the ground-color very dark, and crossed with three or four bands of plain blackish, the last terminal, though fainter than the rest; ground-color of the primaries more yellowish, the mottling more delicate; they are crossed by nine transverse series of quadrate dusky spots. The ground-color of the tail is pale ochraceous (transversely mottled with dusky), becoming white at the tip, crossed by seven bands of mottled blackish, these about equalling the light bands in width; on the middle feathers the bands are broken and

confused, running obliquely, or, in places, longitudinally. Outer webs of ear-tufts pure black; inner webs almost wholly ochraceous; eyebrows and lores white, the feathers with black shafts; face dingy rufous; eye very narrowly encircled with whitish; a

crescent of black bordering the upper eyelid, and confluent with the black of the ear-tufts. Facial circle continuous black, except across the foreneck; chin, throat, and jugulum pure immaculate white, to the roots of the feathers. Beneath, white prevails, but the yellowish-rufous is prevalent on the sides of the breast, and shows as the base color wherever the feathers are disarranged. The sides of the breast, sides, and flanks have numerous sharply defined narrow transverse bars of brownish-black; anteriorly these are finer and more ragged, becoming coalesced so as to form conspicuous, somewhat longitudinal, black spots. On the lower tail-coverts the bars are distant, though not less sharply defined. The abdomen medially is scarcely maculate white. Legs and toes plain ochraceous-white.



Wing-formula, 2, 3 - 4 - 1, 5. Wing, 14.50; tail, 8.20; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 2.00; middle toe, 2.00.

♀ (12,065, Maryland; R. J. Pollard). General appearance same as the male. Black blotches on head above and nape less conspicuous, the surface being mottled like the back, etc.; primary coverts with three well-defined narrow pure black bands; primaries with only six bands, these broader than in the male; secondaries with only five bands; tail with but six dark bands, these very much narrower than the light ones. Tibiæ and tarsi with sparse transverse bars of dusky. Wing-formula, 3, 2, 4 - 1 = 5. Wing, 16.00; tail, 9.00; culmen, 1.20; tarsus, 2.20; middle toe, 2.10.

*Young.* Wings and tail as in adult. Downy plumage of head and body ochraceous, with detached, rather distant, transverse bars of dusky. (12,062, Washington, D. C., May 20, 1859; C. Drexler.)

*HAB.* Eastern North America, south of Labrador; west to the Missouri; south through Atlantic region of Mexico to Costa Rica; Jamaica (Gosse).

*Localities:* (?) Oaxaca (SCL. 1859, 390; possibly var. *arcticus*); Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I. 222); Jamaica (Gosse, 23); Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 330, breeds); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 132).

Specimens from the regions indicated vary but little, the only two possessing differences of any note being one (58,747,<sup>1</sup> ♂) from Southern Illinois, and one (33,218, San Jose; J. Carmiol) from Costa Rica. The first differs from all those from the eastern United States in much deeper and darker shades of color, the rufous predominant below, the legs and crissum being of quite a deep shade of this color; the transverse bars beneath are also very broad and pure black. This specimen is more like Audubon's figure than any other, and may possibly represent the peculiar style of the Lower Mississippi region. The Costa Rica bird is remarkable for the predominance of the rufous on all parts of the plumage; the legs, however, are

<sup>1</sup> No. 559, collection of R. Ridgway (♂, Mt. Carmel, Wabash County, Southern Illinois, October 14, 1869). 22½ - 54. Weight, 3½ lbs.; bill black; iris gamboge-yellow; toes ashy; claws horn-color, black at ends.



whitish, as in specimens from the Atlantic coast of the United States. These specimens cannot, however, be considered as anything else than merely local styles of the *virginianus*, var. *virginianus*.

### **Bubo virginianus, var. arcticus, SWAINS.**

#### **WESTERN GREAT HORNED OWL.**

*Strix wapacuthu*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. 1789, p. 290. *Strix Bubo arctica*, SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 1831, 86. *Heliapter arcticus*, SWAINS. Classif. Birds, I, 1837, 328; Ib. II, 217. *Bubo virginianus arcticus*, CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 50 (*B. virginianus*). BLAKISTON, Ibis, III, 1861, 320. *Bubo virginianus*, var. *arcticus*, COUES, Key, 1872, 202. *Bubo subarcticus*, HOY, P. A. N. S. VI, 1852, 211. *Bubo virginianus pacificus*, CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. 1854, and Birds N. Am. 1858, *B. occidentalis*, in part only. *Bubo macellatus*, CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. 1854, 178 (not *B. macellatus* of LESSON?). *Bubo virginianus*, HEERM. 34. — KENNERLY, 20. — COUES, Prod. (P. A. N. S. 1866, 13). — BLAKISTON, Ibis, III, 1861, 320. ? *Wapacuthu Owl*, PENNANT, Arctic Zool. 231. — LATH. Syn. Supp. I, 49.

CHAR. Pattern of coloration precisely like that of var. *virginianus*, but the general aspect much lighter and more grayish, caused by a greater prevalence of the lighter tints, and contraction of dark pencillings. The ochraceous much lighter and less rufous. Face soiled white, instead of deep dingy rufous.

♂ (No. 21,581, Camp Kootenay, Washington Territory, August 2, 1860). Wing, 14.00; tail, 8.60; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 2.00. Tail and primaries each with the dark bands nine in number; legs and feet immaculate white. Wing-formula, 3, 2 = 4 - 5 - 1.

♀ (No. 10,574, Fort Tejon, California). Wing, 14.70; tail, 9.50; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 2.00. Tail and primaries each with seven dark bands; legs transversely barred with dusky. Wing-formula, 3, 4, 2 - 5 - 1, 6.

HAB. Western region of North America, from the interior Arctic districts to the table-lands of Mexico. Wisconsin (Hoy); Northern Illinois (Pekin, Mus. Cambridge): Lower California; ? Orizaba, Mexico.

Localities: (?) Orizaba (SCL. P. Z. S. 1860, 253); Arizona (COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 49).

The above description covers the average characters of a light grayish race of the *B. virginianus*, which represents the other styles in the whole of the western and interior regions of the continent. Farther northward, in the interior of the fur countries, the plumage becomes lighter still, some Arctic specimens being almost as white as the *Nyctea scandiaca*. The *B. arcticus* of Swainson was founded upon a specimen of this kind, and it is our strong opinion that the Wapacuthu Owl of Pennant (*Strix wapacuthu*, Gmel.) was nothing else than a similar individual, which had accidentally lost the ear-tufts, since there is no other discrepancy in the original description. The failure to mention ear-tufts, too, may have been merely a neglect on the part of the describer.

**Bubo virginianus, var. pacificus, CASS.**

*Bubo virginianus pacificus*, CASSIN, Bird. N. Am. 1858, 19. *Bubo virginianus*, var. *pacificus*, COLES, Key, 1872, 202. *Bubo virginianus*, COOP. & SUCKLEY, P. R. Rept. XII, II, 1869, 154. — LORR, P. R. A. S. IV, III (British Columbia). — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Ac. I, 1869, 272 (Alaska). — ? FINSCH, Abh. Nat. III, 26 (Alaska).

SP. CHAR. The opposite extreme from var. *arcticus*. The black shades predominating and the white mottling replaced by pale grayish; the form of the mottling above is less regularly transverse, being oblique or longitudinal, and more in blotches than in the other styles. The primary coverts are plain black; the primaries are mottled gray and plain black. On the tail the mottling is very dark, the lighter markings on the middle feathers being thrown into longitudinal splashes. Beneath, the black bars are nearly as wide as the white, fully double their width in var. *arcticus*. The legs are always thickly barred. The lining of the wings is heavily barred with black. Face dull grayish, barred with dusky; ear-tufts almost wholly black.

♂ (45,842, Sitka, Alaska, November, 1866; Ferd. Bischoff). Wing-formula, 3, 2 = 4 - 5 - 1, 6. Wing, 14.00; tail, 8.00; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 2.05; middle toe, .95.

Face with obscure bars of black; ochraceous of the bases of the feathers is distinct. There are seven black spots on the primaries, eight on the tail; on the latter exceeding the paler in width.

♀ (27,075, Yukon River, mouth Porcupine, April 16, 1861; R. Kennicott). Wing-formula, 3, 2 = 4 - 5 - 1, 6. Wing, 16.00; tail, 9.80; culmen, 1.15; tarsus, 2.00. Eight black spots on primaries, seven on tail.

HAB. Pacific coast north of the Columbia; Labrador. A northern littoral form.

A specimen from Labrador (34,958, Fort Niseopec, H. Connolly) is an extreme example of this well-marked variety. In this the rufous is entirely absent, the plumage consisting wholly of brownish-black and white, the former predominating; the jugulum and the abdomen medially are conspicuously snowy-white; the black bars beneath are broad, and towards the end of each feather they become coalesced into a prevalent mottling, forming a spotted appearance.

Another (11,792, Simiahmoo, Dr. C. B. Kennerly) from Washington Territory has the black even more prevalent than in the last, being almost continuously uniform on the scapulars and lesser wing-coverts; beneath the black bars are much suffused. In this specimen the rufous tinge is present, as it is in all except the Labrador skin.

HABITS. The Great Horned Owl has an extended distribution throughout at least the whole of North America from ocean to ocean, and from Central America to the Arctic regions. Throughout this widely extended area it is everywhere more or less abundant, except where it has been driven out by the increase of population. In this wide distribution the species naturally assumes varying forms and exhibits considerable diversities of coloring. These are provided with distinctive names to mark the races, but should all be regarded as belonging to one species, as they do not present any distinctive variation in habit.

Sir John Richardson speaks of it as not uncommon in the Arctic regions. It is abundant in Canada, and throughout all parts of the United States. Dr. Gambel met with it also in large numbers in the wooded regions of Upper California. Dr. Heermann found it very common around Sacramento in 1849, but afterwards, owing to the increase in population, it had become comparatively rare. Dr. Woodhouse met with it in the Indian Territory, though not abundantly. Lieutenant Couch obtained specimens in Mexico, and Mr. Schott in Texas.

In the regions northwest of the Yukon River, Mr. Robert Kennicott found a pair of these birds breeding on the 10th of April. The female was pro-



*Bubo virginianus.*

cured, and proved to be of a dark plumage. The nest, formed of dry spruce branches retaining their leaves, was placed near the top of a large green spruce, in thick woods. It was large, measuring three or four feet across at base. The eggs were placed in a shallow depression, which was lined with a few feathers. Two more eggs were found in the ovary of the female, — one broken, the other not larger than a musket-ball. The eggs were frozen on their way to the fort. Mr. Ross states that he found this Owl very abundant around Great Slave Lake, but that it became less common as they proceeded farther north. It was remarkably plentiful in the marshes around

Fort Resolution. Its food consisted of shrews and *Arvicolæ*, which are very abundant there. It is very tame and easily approached, and the Chipewyan Indians are said to eat with great relish the flesh, which is generally fat.

Mr. Gunn writes that this Owl is found over all the woody regions of the Hudson Bay Territory. In the summer it visits the shores of the bay, but retires to some distance inland on the approach of winter. It hunts in the dark, preying on rabbits, mice, muskrats, partridges, and any other fowls that it can find. With its bill it breaks the bones of hares into small pieces, which its stomach is able to digest. They pair in March, the only time at which they seem to enjoy each other's society. The nest is usually made of twigs in the fork of some large poplar, where the female lays from three to six pale-white eggs. It is easily approached in clear sunny weather, but sees very well when the sky is clouded. It is not mentioned by Mr. MacFarlane as found near Anderson River. Mr. Dall caught alive several young birds not fully fledged, June 18, on the Yukon River, below the fort. He also met with it at Nulato, where it was not common, but was more plentiful farther up the river.

Mr. Salvin found this species in August at Duenas and at San Geronimo, in Guatemala. At Duenas it was said to be resident, and is so probably throughout the whole country. It was not uncommon, and its favorite locality was one of the hillsides near that village, well covered with low trees and shrubs, and with here and there a rocky precipice. They were frequently to be met with on afternoons, and at all hours of the night they made their proximity known by their deep cry.

Dr. Kennerly found it in Texas in the cañon of Devil River, and he adds that it seemed to live indifferently among the trees and the high and precipitous cliffs. It was found throughout Texas and New Mexico, wherever there are either large trees or deep cañons that afforded a hiding-place during the day. Attracted by the camp-fires of Dr. Kennerly's party, this Owl would occasionally sweep around their heads for a while, and then disappear in the darkness, to resume its dismal notes. Sometimes, frightened by the reverberating report of a gun, they would creep among the rocks, attempting to conceal themselves, and be thus taken alive.

Though frequently kept in captivity, the Great Horned Owl, even when taken young, is fierce and untamable, resenting all attempts at familiarity. It has no affection for its mate, this being especially true of the female. Mr. Downes mentions an instance within his knowledge, in which a female of this species, in confinement, killed and ate the male. Excepting during the brief period of mating, they are never seen in pairs.

Its flight is rapid and graceful, and more like that of an eagle than one of this family. It sails easily and in large circles. It is nocturnal in its habits, and is very rarely seen abroad in the day, and then only in cloudy weather



or late in the afternoon. When detected in its hiding-place by the Jay, Crow, or King-bird, and driven forth by their annoyances, it labors under great disadvantages, and flies at random in a hesitating flight, until twilight enables it to retaliate upon its tormentors. The hooting and nocturnal cries of the Great Horned Owl are a remarkable feature in its habits. These are chiefly during its breeding-season, especially the peculiar loud and vociferous cries known as its hooting. At times it will utter a single shriek, sounding like the yell of some unearthly being, while again it barks incessantly like a dog, and the resemblance is so natural as to provoke a rejoinder from its canine prototype. Occasionally it utters sounds resembling the half-choking cries of a person nearly strangled, and, attracted by the watchfire of a camp, fly over it, shrieking a cry resembling *waugh-hōō*. It is not surprising that with all these combinations and variations of unearthly cries these birds should have been held in awe by the aborigines, their cries being sufficiently fearful to startle even the least timid.

It is one of the most destructive of the depredators upon the poultry-yard, far surpassing in this respect any of our Hawks. All its mischief is done at night, when it is almost impossible to detect and punish it. Whole plantations are often thus stripped in a single season.

The mating of this bird appears to have little or no reference to the season. A pair has been known to select a site for their nest, and begin to construct a new one, or seize upon that of a Red-tailed Hawk, and repair it, in September or October, keeping in its vicinity through the winter, and making their presence known by their continued hooting. Mr. Jillson found a female sitting on two eggs in February, in Hudson, Mass.; and Mr. William Street, of Easthampton, in the spring of 1869, found one of their nests on the 3d of March, the eggs in which had been incubated at least a week. If one nest is broken up, the pair immediately seek another, and make a renewed attempt to raise a brood. They rarely go more than a mile from their usual abode, and then only for food. Mr. Street's observations have led him to conclude that they mate about February 20, and deposit their eggs from the 25th to the 28th. They cease to hoot in the vicinity of their nest from the time of their mating until their young have left them in June. On the 19th of March, 1872, Mr. Street found two of their eggs containing young nearly ready to hatch.

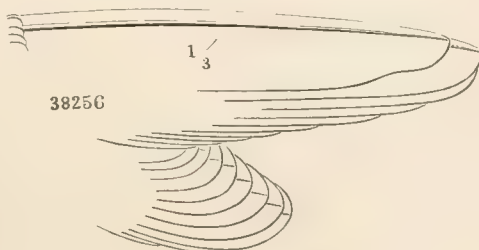
Mr. Street's observations satisfied him that the period of incubation of this Owl is about three weeks. When they have young and are hard pressed for food, they hunt by day as well as by night, and at this time they hoot a good deal. The young are ready to leave their nest about six weeks after hatching. At this time their feathers are nearly all grown, except their head-feathers, which have hardly started. In the spring of 1872 Mr. Street found a young bird that had fallen from its nest. Though very small it was untamable, and not to be softened by any attentions. Its savage disposition seemed to increase with age. It readily devoured all

kinds of animal food, and was especially fond of fish and snakes. It was remarkable for its cowardice, being always ridiculously fearful of the smallest dog, the near approach of one always causing extravagant manifestations of alarm. He was therefore led to conclude that it does not prey upon quadrupeds larger than a hare, that it rarely is able to seize small birds, and that reptiles and fish form no inconsiderable portion of its food. The young Owl in question assumed its full plumage in November, when less than eight months old. It was of full size in all respects except in the length of its claws, which were hardly half the usual size.

Mr. T. H. Jackson, of West Chester, Penn., has met with fresh eggs of this Owl, February 13, 22, and 28, and has found young birds in their nests from the 2d of March to the 28th.

Mr. Audubon states that while the Great Horned Owl usually nests in large hollows of decayed trees, he has twice found the eggs in the fissures of rocks. In all these cases, little preparation had been made previous to the laying of the eggs, the bed consisting of only a few grasses and feathers. Wilson, who found them breeding in the swamps of New Jersey, states that the nest was generally constructed in the fork of a tall tree, but sometimes in a smaller tree. They begin to build towards the close of winter, and, even in the Arctic regions, Sir John Richardson speaks of their hatching their eggs as early as March. The shape of the egg is very nearly exactly spherical, and its color is a dull white with a slightly yellowish tinge. An egg formerly in the old Peale's Museum of Philadelphia, taken in New Jersey by Alexander Wilson the ornithologist, and bearing his autograph upon its shell, measures 2.31 inches in length by 2.00 in breadth. Another, obtained in the vicinity of Salem, Mass., measures 2.25 inches in length by 1.88 in breadth. In the latter instance the nest was constructed on a tall and inaccessible tree in a somewhat exposed locality. The female was shot on the nest, and, as she fell, she clutched one of the eggs in a convulsive grasp, and brought it in her claws to the ground. An egg obtained in Tamaulipas, Mexico, on the Rio Grande, by Dr. Berlandier, measures 2.18 inches in length by 1.81 in breadth.

An egg from Wisconsin, taken by Mr. B. F. Goss, may be considered as about the average in size and color. It is nearly spherical, of a clear bluish-white, and measures 2.30 by 2.00 inches.



*Otus wilsonianus.*

**Nyctea scandiaca, var. arctica, GRAY.**

## AMERICAN SNOWY OWL.

*Nyctea scandiaca*, BARTRAM, *F. and G. Ornithol.*, I, pl. 128. — *Syrnium nyctea*, GÜNTHER, *Vidua*, Orn. Atl. Sept. 1827, pl. 10. — *Syrnium*, GÜNTHER & RUFFE, *B. A. H.*, 1831, 88. — BONAP. *Ann. N. Y. L.*, II, 186. — WILSON, *Am. Orn.*, p. 11. — R. L. F. — *Aud. Birds Am.*, p. 10. — *Am. Orn.*, I, 11, 15. — *Texas N. H.*, Vol. 1, p. 64. — *Proc. B. B. Mus.*, III, 84. — *Syrnium nyctea* (EDMONDST.), JAMES. (ed. WILS.), *Am. Orn.*, I, 1831, 92. — NUTT. *Man.*, p. 116. — KAUP, *Tr. Zool. Soc.*, IV, 1859, 214. — *Syrnium nyctea* (THOMPS.), JARDINE'S (ed. WILS.) *Am. Orn.*, II, 1832, 46. — *Nyctea nivea*, (GRAY) CASS. *Birds Cal. & Tex.*, 1854, 100. — *Id.* *Birds N. Am.*, 1858, 63. — NEWTON, *P. Z. S.*, 1861, 394 (eggs). — DRESSER, *Ibis*, 1865, 330 (Texas!). — DALL & BÄNNISTER, *Tr. Chicago Acad.*, I, II, 1869, 273 (Alaska). — COUES, *Key*, 1872, 205. — *Nyctea candida*, (LATH.) BONAP. *List*, 1838, 6.

SP. CHAR. *Adult.* Ground-color entirely snow-white, this marked with transverse bars of clear dusky, of varying amount in different individuals.

♂ (No. 12,059, Washington, D. C., December 4, 1858; C. Drexler). Across the top of the head, and interspersed over the wings and scapulars, are small transversely cordate spots of clear brownish-black, these inclining to the form of regular transverse bars on the scapulars; there is but one on each feather. The secondaries have mottled bars of more dilute dusky; the primaries have spots of black at their ends; the tail has a single series of irregular dusky spots crossing it near the end. Abdomen, sides, and flanks with transverse crescentic bars of clear brownish-black. Wing, 16.50; tail, 9.00; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 1.90; middle toe, 1.30. Wing-formula, 3, 2 = 4 - 5, 1.

♀ (No. 12,058, Washington, D. C., December 4, 1858). Head above and nape with each feather blackish centrally, producing a conspicuously spotted appearance. Rest of the plumage with regular, sharply defined transverse bars of clear brownish-black; those of the upper surface more crescentic, those on the lower tail-coverts narrower and more distant. Tail crossed by five bands, composed of detached transverse spots. Only the face, foreneck, middle of the breast, and feet, are immaculate; everywhere else, excepting on the crissum, the dusky and white are in nearly equal amount. Wing, 18.00; tail, 9.80; culmen, 1.10. Wing-formula, 3 = 4, 2 - 1 = 5.

*Young* (No. 36,434, Arctic America, August, 1863; MacFarlane). Only partially feathered. Wings and tail as in the adult female described, but the blackish bars rather broader. Down covering the head and body dark brownish or sooty slate, becoming paler on the legs.

HAB. Northern portions of the Nearctic Realm. Breeding in the arctic and sub-arctic regions, and migrating in winter to the verge of the tropics. Bermuda (JARDINE); South Carolina (BARTRAM and AUDUBON); Texas (DRESSER).

Localities: Texas, San Antonio (DRESSER, *Ibis*, 1865, 330).

The Snowy Owls of North America, though varying greatly among themselves, seem to be considerably darker, both in the extremes and average conditions of plumage, than European examples. Not only are the dusky bars darker, but they are usually broader, and more extended over the general surface.

HABITS. This is an exclusively northern species, and is chiefly confined to the Arctic Circle and the adjacent portions of the temperate zone. It is met with in the United States only in midwinter, and is much more abun-

dant in some years than in others. Individual specimens have been occasionally noticed as far south as South Carolina, but very rarely. It has also been observed in Kentucky, Ohio, the Bermuda Islands, and in nearly every part of the United States.

In the Arctic regions of North America and in Greenland it is quite abundant, and has been observed as far to the north as Arctic voyagers have yet reached. Professor Reinhardt states that it is much more numerous in the northern than in the southern part of Greenland. Sir John Richardson, who, during seven years' residence in the Arctic regions, enjoyed unusual oppor-



*Nyctea scandiaca*

tunities for studying the habits of this Owl, says that it hunts its prey in the daytime. It is generally found on the Barren Grounds, but is always so wary as to be approached with difficulty. In the wooded districts it is less cautious.

Mr. Downes states that this Owl is very abundant in Nova Scotia in winter, and that it is known to breed in the neighboring province of Newfoundland. In some years it appears to traverse the country in large flocks. In the winter of 1861-62, he adds, these birds made their appearance in Canada in large numbers.

Mr. Boardman states that they are present in winter in the vicinity of Calais, but that they are not common. A pair was noticed in the spring of



1862 as late as the last of May, and, in Mr. Boardman's opinion, were breeding in that neighborhood. In the western part of Maine Mr. Verrill found it also rather rare, and met with it only in winter. He states that it differs greatly in disposition from the Great Horned Owl, being naturally very gentle, and becoming very readily quite tame in confinement, differing very much in this respect from most large *Raptores*.

It makes its appearance in Massachusetts about the middle or last of November, and in some seasons is quite common, though never present in very large numbers. It is bold, but rather wary; coming into thick groves of trees in close proximity to cities, which indeed it frequently enters, but keeping a sharp lookout, and never suffering a near approach. It hunts by daylight, and appears to distinguish objects without difficulty. Its flight is noiseless, graceful, easy, and at times quite rapid. In some seasons it appears to wander over the whole of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, Dr. Heermann having obtained a specimen of it near San Antonio, Texas, in the winter of 1857.

It is more abundant, in winter, near the coast, than in the interior, and in the latter keeps in the neighborhood of rivers and streams, watching by the open places for opportunities to catch fish. Mr. Audubon describes it as very expert and cunning in fishing, crouching on the edges of air-holes in the ice, and instantly seizing any fish that may come to the surface. It also feeds on hares, squirrels, rats, and other small animals. It watches the traps set for animals, especially muskrats, and devours them when caught. In the stomach of one Mr. Audubon found the whole of a large house-rat. Its own flesh, Mr. Audubon affirms, is fine and delicate, and furnishes very good eating. It is described as a very silent bird, and Mr. Audubon has never known it to utter a note or to make any sound.

Richardson states that a few remain in the Arctic regions even in mid-winter, but usually in the more sheltered districts, whither it has followed the Ptarmigan, on which it feeds. When seen on the Barren Grounds, it was generally squatting on the earth, and, if disturbed, alighted again after a short flight. In the more wooded districts it is said to be bolder, and is even known to watch the Grouse-shooters, and to share in their spoils, skimming from its perch on a high tree, and carrying off the bird before the sportsman can get near it.

Mr. MacFarlane writes from Fort Anderson that he did not find this species abundant in that quarter, and that its eggs were unknown to him. Mr. B. R. Ross speaks of this Owl as widely distributed, but not common. He found it a winter resident, and has repeatedly seen it at that season near Fort Resolution, and it has been shot in February at Fort Norman. It is very destructive to the snares set by the Indians, eating the hares and breaking the snares, in which they are sometimes caught. The Indians are said to attract these birds near enough to be shot at, by tying a mouse or a piece of hare's skin to a line, and letting it drag behind them.

Mr. Donald Gunn writes that the Snowy Owl is merely a visitor in the districts to the west of Lake Winnipeg, but is a constant inhabitant of the country surrounding Hudson Bay. There they hatch their young, from three to five in number, making their nests in the forks of some tall poplar-tree. They lay their eggs very early in the spring, and have hatched their young before other birds begin to nest. This account of their breeding differs from all other statements I have seen, and, if correct, is probably exceptional.

Although a bird of great vigilance, seldom permitting the hunter to get within range of shot, and equally careful in keeping at a distance from its foe in its flight, it is, Mr. Gunn states, readily deceived and decoyed within easy range by tying a bundle of dark rags to a piece of stout twine, and letting this drag from the end of the hunter's snow-shoe. The hungry Owl pounces upon the bait, and the hunter turns and shoots it. These birds are sometimes quite fat, and are much prized for food by the Indians. At times they migrate from the more northern regions to the more inland districts. An instance of this took place in the winter of 1855-56. These birds made their appearance about the Red River Settlement in October, and before the latter end of December became very numerous, especially on the plains, where they were to be seen flying at any time of the day. In March all left that vicinity and disappeared. A few pass the summer near Lake Winnipeg, as occasional birds are seen there in the spring and fall. These migrations are supposed to be caused by unusual snow-falls and the scarcity of the animals on which they feed.

Mr. Dall found them rather rare in the valley of the Lower Yukon, and he has noticed them occasionally flying over the ice in the winter season.

Mr. Hutchins, in his manuscript observations on the birds of Hudson Bay Territory, speaking of this Owl as the *Wapacuthu*, states that it makes its nest in the moss on the dry ground, and lays from five to ten eggs in May. Professor Alfred Newton (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1861, p. 395) thinks there can be no doubt he refers to this Owl. Richardson states, as the result of his own inquiries, that it breeds on the ground, which the observations of Mr. Hearne confirm. Professor Lilljeborg (Naumannia, 1854, p. 78) found, June 3, 1843, on the Dovrefjeld, a nest of this species which contained seven eggs. It was placed on a little shelf, on the top of a bare mountain, far from the forest, and easy of access. Professor Nilsson was informed, on good authority, that in East Fiarmark the Snowy Owl is said by the Lapps to lay from eight to ten eggs in a little depression of the bare ground on the high mountains. Mr. John Wolley received similar information, and was told that the old birds sometimes attack persons that approach their nests. The 16th to the 24th of May is said to be the time when they usually breed. I received in 1860 an egg of this Owl from Herr Möschler. It had been taken near Okkak, a missionary station of the Moravians, in Labrador, and collected by the Esquimaux. The accounts given by these collectors confirm

the statement that this bird always breeds on the ground in open places, and frequently lays quite a large number of eggs. This specimen measures 2.50 inches in length and 1.88 in breadth. It is oblong-oval in shape, equally rounded at either end, and of a dull soiled white. The egg is much discolored, apparently by its contact with the ground.

Mr. H. S. Hawkins (Ibis, 1870, p. 298) gives an account of the nest and eggs of this species, derived from a correspondent at one of the Moravian missionary stations on the coast of Labrador. The nest is said to consist of only a few feathers, and to be placed generally on a ledge of rocks where there is a slight hollow, sufficient to prevent the eggs from rolling out, but sometimes on the ground. The usual number of eggs is eight; these are not all laid and brooded at one time, but the first two are often hatched by the time the last is laid, so that you may find in one nest young birds, fresh eggs, and others more or less incubated.

Herr von Heuglin, in his Notes on the birds of Novaja Zemlia (Ibis, 1872, p. 61), mentions meeting with this Owl in Seal's Bay, on Matthew's Strait, in the Sea of Kara, where he found three nests with two young birds covered with down. The nest was formed of a shallow depression in the turf, without any lining. The food of the Snowy Owl, in Novaja Zemlia, during the summer time, consisted exclusively of a species of *Myodes*, which were very numerous. The down of the young is plain brownish-gray. They were easily tamed, and their comical gestures and vivacity are said to have been very amusing.

Captain C. F. Hall, the celebrated Arctic voyager, during one of his expeditions found a nest and four eggs of this species on the bare ground. These were packed up in an old moccasin, and sent, without emptying, to the Smithsonian Institution, where, after an interval of several months, they were successfully emptied, and are now among the choice treasures of the national museum.

#### GENUS **SURNIA**, DUMÉRIL.

*Surnia*, DUMÉRIL, Zool. Anal. 1806, 34. (Type, *Strix ulula*, LINN.)

GEN. CHAR. Size medium; form elongated, and general aspect hawk-like. No ear-tufts. Four outer quills with their inner webs sinuated, the third longest; tail nearly as long as the wing, graduated. Ear-conch small, simple, oval. Bill strong, yellow; eyes small, the iris yellow. Tarsi and toes thickly covered with soft dense feathers; tarsus shorter than the middle toe. Plumage much more compact, and less downy, and remiges and rectrices stiffer and straighter than in other Owls.

The single species of this genus belongs exclusively to the cold temperate and arctic zones of the Northern Hemisphere, and is circumpolar. Though somewhat hawk-like in its appearance, it is nevertheless a true Owl, and possesses no affinities of structure with the Hawks, any more than other species of *Strigidae*.

## Species and Races.

**S. ulula.** Above dark vandyke-brown, the head above dotted with white, and the scapulars spotted with the same. Beneath transversely barred with vandyke-brown and white, the bars regular, continuous, and sharply defined. Head and neck with two lateral, and one posterior medial, stripes of brownish-black, the space between them with white prevailing. Bill and iris yellow. Wing, about 9.00; tail, 6.80–7.00.

White spotting prevailing. *Hab.* Palearctic Realm . . . var. *ulula*.<sup>1</sup>

Brown spotting prevailing. *Hab.* Nearctic Realm . . . var. *hudsonia*.

**Surnia ulula, var. hudsonia** Gmelin).

## AMERICAN HAWK OWL.

*Strix freti hudsonis*, BRISS. Orn. I, 520, 1760. *Strix hudsonia*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. p. 295, 1789. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. 1, f. 6, 1808. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 274, 1809. — VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, 50. *Surnia hudsonia*, JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 90, 1831. *Surnia ulula*, var. *hudsonia*, (RIDGWAY) COLES, Key, 1872, 205. *Strix canadensis*, BRISS. Orn. I, 518, pl. xxxvii, f. 2, 1789. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 273, 1809. *Strix funerea* (not of LINNÆUS!), RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 92, 1831. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cccclxxviii, 1831; Orn. Biog. IV, 550. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. York, II, 35. — BREWER (WILS.), Am. Orn. p. 686. — THOMPS. Hist. Vermont, p. 64. — PEAB. Birds Mass. III, 83. *Surnia ulula* (not *ulula* of LINN.), CASS. Birds Calif. & Tex. p. 191, 1854. — Birds N. Am. 1858, 64. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 39, 1869. — BLACKIST. Ibis, III, 320. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, III (Brit. Columb.). — KAUP, Tr. Zool. Soc. IV, 1859, 214. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Acad. I, II, 274. — MAYNARD, Birds Eastern Mass., 1870, 133.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult.* Above rich dark vandyke-brown, darker anteriorly, less intense and more grayish on tail. A narrow streak of brownish-black originating over the middle of eye, and extending backward above the upper edge of the ear-coverts, where it forms an elbow passing downward in a broad stripe over the ends of the ear-coverts; confluent with this, at about the middle of the vertical stripe, is another of similar tint, which passes more broadly down the side of the nape; between the last stripes (those of opposite sides) is another or medial one of less pure black, extending from the occiput down the nape. Every feather of the forehead, crown, and occiput with a central ovate dot of white; those anterior more circular, on the occiput less numerous and more linear. Between the lateral and posterior nuchal stripes the white prevails, the brown forming irregular terminal and transverse or medial spots; these grow more linear toward the back. Interscapulars plain; posterior scapulars variegated with partially concealed large transverse spots of white, the lower feathers with nearly the whole outer webs white, their confluence causing a conspicuous elongated patch above the wing. Rump with sparse, irregular, but generally transverse, spots of white; upper tail-coverts with broader, more regular bars of the same, these about equal to the brown in width. Lower feathers of the middle and secondary wing-coverts each with an ovoid spot of white on the outer web; secondaries crossed by about three transverse series of longitudinally ovoid white spots (situated on the edge of the feather), and very narrowly tipped with the same; primary coverts with one or two less continuous transverse series of spots, these found

<sup>1</sup> *Surnia ulula*, var. *ulula*. *Strix ulula*, LINN. S. N. I, 1766, 133. *Surnia ulula*, BONAP. Cat. 1838, 22.



only on the outer feathers; primaries with about seven transverse series of white spots, these obsolete except on the five outer feathers, on which those anterior to the emargination are most conspicuous; all the primaries are very narrowly bordered with white at the ends. Tail with seven or eight very narrow bands of white, those on the middle feathers purely so, becoming obsolete exteriorly; the last is terminal. Eyebrows, lores, and face grayish-white, the grayish appearance caused by the blackish shafts of the feathers; that of the face continues (contracting considerably) across the lower part of the throat, separating a large space of dark brown, which covers nearly the whole throat, from an indistinct collar of the same extending across the jugulum, — this collar uniting the lower ends of the auricular and cervical dusky bands, the space between which is nearly clear white. Ground-color of the lower parts white, but everywhere with numerous very regular transverse bars of deep brown, of a tint more reddish than the back, the brown bars rather more than half as wide as the white ones; across the upper part of the breast (beneath the dark gular collar) the white invades very much and reduces the brown, forming a broad lighter belt across the jugulum; below this the brown bars increase in width, their aggregation tending somewhat to a suffusion, giving the white jugular belt better definition. On the legs and toes the bars are narrower, more distant, and less regular.

The whole lining of the wing is barred just like the sides. The dark brown prevails on the under surface of the primaries, etc.; the former having transverse, irregular, elliptical spots of white, these touching neither the shaft nor the edge: on the longest quill are seven of these spots; on all they are anterior to the emargination.

♂ (49,808, Nulato, Alaska, April 21, 1867; W. H. Dall). Wing-formula, 3, 4-2-5-6-1. Wing, 9.00; tail, 7.00; culmen, .70; tarsus (of another specimen; wanting in the present), .90; middle toe, .82.

♀ (49,807, Nulato, April 20; W. H. Dall). Wing-formula, 3, 4-2-5-6-7=1. Wing, 9.00; tail, 6.80; culmen, .70; middle toe, .80.

HAB. Arctic America, south in winter into northern United States; Wisconsin (DR. HOY); Massachusetts (DR. BREWER); MAYNARD; Dakota and Montana. M. S. L.

The Hawk Owl of North America is to be distinguished from that of Europe and Siberia by the same characters which distinguish the American Sparrow Owl from the European, namely, much darker shade of the brown and its greater prevalence. Three perfect specimens of the Old World bird (a pair from Lapland, and a specimen from Kamtschatka, Petropawloosk, W. H. Dall) agree in prevalence of the white over the head above, the confluence of the spots on the scapulars forming a larger, more conspicuous patch, and very broad and almost immaculate jugular belt; the brown bars beneath are very much narrower than in the American bird, and the tint is not different from that of the back. The legs and toes are scarcely variegated. While acknowledging the identity of the two representative forms, the differences are such as to entitle them to separation as races.

HABITS. The American form of the Hawk Owl inhabits the northern portions of both continents, and is common in the Arctic portions. On the Atlantic coast of this continent it has been found as far south as Philadelphia and the State of New Jersey, but its presence south of latitude 45° is probably only occasional and rather rare. The European form, according to Mr. Dresser, has not been known to exist in the British Islands, but several instances are quoted of the occurrence of the American form in Great Britain. One was

taken off the coast of Cornwall in March, 1830; another was shot near Yatton, in Somersetshire, on a sunny afternoon in August, 1847; a third had previously been taken at Maryhill, near Glasgow, in December, 1863. On the Pacific coast it has not been taken farther south than Alaska, though it is quite probable it may yet be found to be an occasional visitant in Washington Territory and Oregon, and even the northern portions of California. It remains all the winter in high northern latitudes, and the instances of its having been taken even in Massachusetts, so far as is now known, are not many. Wilson only met with two specimens. Audubon and Nuttall never met with one of these birds alive.

*Syrnium ulia*

Mr. Downes states that the Hawk Owl is very abundant in Nova Scotia in the winter time in some years, but may not be seen again for four or five seasons. It is common in Newfoundland, where it breeds in the Caribou districts. Mr. Downes often kept living specimens in confinement, which had been taken on board the Cunard steamers off the coast.

Mr. Boardman gives this species as resident, though rare, in the neighborhood of Calais, being occasionally found there in the breeding-season. In Oxford County, Maine, Professor A. E. Verrill says it is a common autumnal and winter visitant, and that it is quite abundant from the first of November to the middle of March, but not found there in the summer. Mr. Allen has never met with it in Western Massachusetts. Near Boston, in some seasons, it is not uncommon, though never occurring with any frequency, and only singly. It is found throughout the State, and is probably more common late in November than at any other time; several having been taken in Westfield, and also in Berkshire County, among the Green Mountains. I am not aware that any have been taken farther south than Philadelphia, near which city Mr. Edward Harris obtained one specimen, while another was shot at Haddington in 1866. Mr. McIlwraith calls it a rare winter visitant near Hamilton, Canada.

Richardson states that it is a common species throughout the fur countries from Hudson Bay to the Pacific, where it is killed by the hunters more frequently than any other, which may be attributed to its boldness and to its diurnal habits. During the summer season it feeds principally upon mice and insects, but in the regions in which it is found in winter, where the snow is very deep, and where this food is not procurable, it

must depend on the Ptarmigan, and, indeed, is found a constant attendant upon the flocks of these birds in their spring migrations. When the hunters are shooting Grouse, it is said to be occasionally attracted by the report of the gun, and is often bold enough, when a bird has been killed, to pounce down upon it, although it is unable, from its inferior size, to carry it off. It is also said to occasionally hover round the fires made by the Indians at night.

To this account of its habits Richardson adds that it builds its nest on a tree, of sticks, grass, and feathers, and lays two white eggs. In regard to the number of eggs, he is now known to be inaccurate. Mr. MacFarlane met with this bird in considerable numbers in the region of Anderson River, where he found several nests, and all of which he made any record were built in pine-trees at considerable height from the ground. One nest is said to have been on the top of a pine about twenty feet in height, and was composed of small sticks and twigs, lined with moss. Both parents were obtained. This nest contained two young birds — one of which was about ten days old, the other about three weeks — and an addled egg. This nest was found on the 20th of June, showing that the bird began to incubate early in May.

Another nest, taken on the 28th of April, was found to contain six eggs. It was built in the top crotch of a tall pine, was composed of dry sticks, and lined with hay and a few feathers. A third nest also contained six eggs, and was lined with green mosses and deer's hair. One nest contained as many as seven eggs, and all but one had as many as six. Mr. MacFarlane speaks of it as a winter resident.

Mr. B. R. Ross states that he found this bird throughout the Great Slave Lake district, but not plentiful. It winters in even the northernmost parts of the wooded country. It is said to build its nest not only on trees, but also on cliffs, and to lay as early as the last of March or the first of April. He states that the eggs are usually four in number, and describes them as of a dead white, of an oblong-oval shape, and as measuring 1.39 inches by 1.21. He received three eggs with the parent bird, taken at Lapierre's House, and another parent, with nest and four eggs, from Salt River.

Mr. Dall found this the most common species of Owl about Nulato. Many of both sexes were obtained, and on the 16th of April he took from the ovary of a female an egg ready for laying. On the 5th of May Mr. Dall obtained six eggs which were laid on the top of an old birch stump, and fifteen feet from the ground. There was no nest other than that the rotten wood was somewhat hollowed out, and the eggs laid directly upon it. As he was climbing to the nest, the male bird which had been sitting on the nest attacked Mr. Dall, and knocked off his cap. The female did not appear.

Mr. Donald Gunn states that these Owls hunt in the daytime, and feed chiefly upon mice; and Mr. Dall seldom found anything but mice in their crops, and adds that it is very fond of flying, towards dusk, from the top

of one tall spruce to another, apparently swinging or balancing itself, calling to its mate at intervals, while chasing or being chased by it.

Captain Drummond states, in "Contributions to Ornithology" (p. 37), that he noticed a bird of this species, on the wing, within a few yards of him, in the Bermudas.

Mr. Dresser, who had ample opportunities of observing the Hawk Owl in New Brunswick, where he found it by no means uncommon, describes it as a true day Owl. It was often seen by him hawking after prey in the strongest sunshine, or seated quietly blinking on the top of an old blasted tree, apparently undisturbed by the glare of the sun. In its general appearance, and particularly in its flight, it appeared to him to have considerable affinity to the Sparrow Hawk. In New Brunswick it affected the open plains or so-called blueberry barrens, where the open country is covered with low bushes and an occasional scathed tree. It would sit on one of these trees for hours in an upright hawk-like position, occasionally hunting over the ground, like the Kestrel of Europe, in search of small field-mice. It showed but little fear, and could be easily approached within gun-shot. When shot at and missed, it would take a short flight and return to its former perch. On one occasion Mr. Dresser, firing at one with a rifle, cut the branch close under the bird, which returned almost immediately to another branch, was a second time missed, and finally fell under a third shot.

Its note is said to be a shrill cry, similar to the call of the European Kestrel, and generally uttered on the wing. The stomach was generally found filled with small field-mice, and rarely contained any remains of small birds. They appeared to hunt after food chiefly early in the forenoon and in the evening. During the day they rested on some elevated perch. In the night they retired to rest like other diurnal *Raptores*.

An egg of this Owl, taken from the oviduct of its parent by Mr. B. R. Ross, April 16, at Fort Simpson, measures 1.50 inches in length by 1.20 in breadth. It is of oval shape, and of a dull-white color. Another egg measures 1.62 by 1.30 inches, is of a rounded oval, equally obtuse at either end, and of a yellowish-white color. It was taken by Mr. MacFarlane at Fort Anderson.

#### GENUS **GLAUCIDIUM**. BOIE.

*Glaucidium*, BOIE, Isis, 1826, 970. *Microptynx*, KAUF. (Type, *Strix passerina*, LINN.)

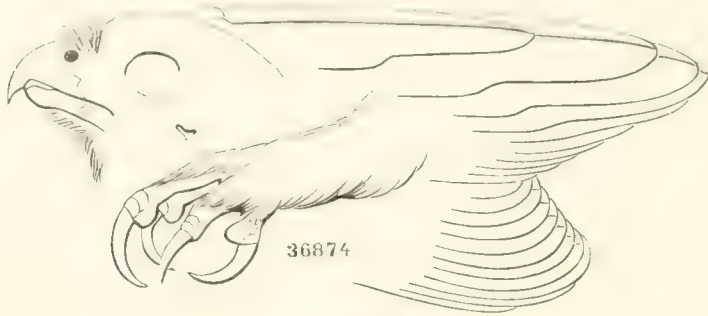
*Microglauz*, KAUF. (Type, *Strix havanense*, KAUF. = *G. siju* (D'ORE.) CAB.)

! *Tachinoptynx*, KAUF. (Type, *Noctua brodiei*, BURT.)

GEN. CHAR. Size very small; head rather small; bill and feet very strong and robust; no ear-tufts; tail long, about three fourths as long as the wing, rounded. Nostrils circular, opening in the middle of the inflated cere-membrane (except in *G. siju*). Tarsus about equal to the middle toe, densely feathered; toes haired. Four outer quills with their inner webs emarginated; third to fourth longest. Ear-conch very small, simple, rounded. Bill yellowish (except in *G. phalaenoides*?); iris yellow.



The genus is most largely developed within the tropical regions, only one species (*G. passerinum*) belonging to the cold temperate zone, and this is found on both continents. They are the most robustly organized of all Owls, and, for their size, are very predatory, as in the next genus (*Micrathene*), though themselves hardly larger than a Sparrow, they frequently feed upon



*Glaucidium californicum*

small birds, and, no doubt, often destroy the passerine species of nearly their own size. Like the most of the group to which this genus belongs, they are diurnal in their habits, and fly about during the brightest sunshine. They inhabit chiefly dense forests, and, for this reason, are less well known than the more easily accessible Owls.

The following synopsis includes only the North American and Mexican species of *Glaucidium*. In tropical America are several others very distinct from those here given.

#### Species and Races.

COMMON CHARACTERS. Above brown, varying from nearly gray to bright ferruginous, in some species this color interrupted by a more or less distinct whitish nuchal collar, with an adjacent blackish spot (sometimes concealed) on each side of the neck. Tail with narrow bands. Beneath white, the sides striped with brown or blackish. Throat and jugulum white, with a dusky collar between. Crown speckled or streaked with lighter; wings more or less spotted with the same.

##### A. Markings on the crown circular, or dot-like.

1. ***G. passerinum*.** Tail with six to eight narrow white bands. Upper parts varying from brownish-gray to chocolate-brown. Ground-color of the lower parts pure white.

Tail, and stripes on sides, not darker than the back; tail-bands six, and continuous; toes rather thickly feathered. *Hab.* Europe.

var. *passerinum*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Glaucidium passerinum*, var. *passerinum*. *Strix passerina*, LINN. I, 133, 1766. *Glaucidium passerinum*, BOIT, Isis, 1826, 976. SHARP & DRESSER, Birds Europe, II, April, 1871. *Sarcoris passerina*, KAYS. & BLAS. Wild. Europ. 32, 1840. *Macropygia passerina*, KAUT, Contr. Orn. 1852, 107. *Nyctalus passerina*, SCHLEG. Mus. Pays-Bas. *Strix*, p. 41, 1862. *Strix pusilla*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 205, 1800. *Strix pygmaea*, BECHST. Nat. Deutschl. IV, 978, t. xxiv, 1805. *Strix acadica*, TEMM. Man. d'Orn. I, p. 96, 1820 (*nec* GMEL.).

Tail, and stripes on sides, much darker than the back; tail-bands 7 (♂) - 8 (♀), not continuous; toes only scantily haired. Wing, 3.50-4.00; tail, 2.50-2.80; culmen, .43-.48; tarsus, .60; middle toe, .55. *Hab.* Western Province of North America. Table-lands of Mexico . . . . . var. *californicum*.

**B. Markings on the crown longitudinal and linear.**

**2. *G. infuscatum*.** Tail dark brown, crossed by six to seven non-continuous bands of white, narrower than the dark ones. Above varying from grayish-brown to reddish-umber and sepia. Beneath white, the stripes on the sides grayish-brown or dark brown, like the back.

Above dark sepia, or blackish-brown. Tail brownish-black or deep black. Wing, 3.70-3.90; tail, 2.50-2.90; culmen, .45; tarsus, .65-.80; middle toe, .65-.70. *Hab.* Eastern South America . . . . . var. *infuscatum*.<sup>1</sup>

Above grayish, or reddish-umber. Tail clear dark brown, or grayish-umber.

Wing, 3.60-3.90; tail, 2.35-2.75; culmen, .45-.50; tarsus, .65-.80; middle toe, .60-.70. *Hab.* Middle America, from the Rio Grande (probably in Texas) to Panama . . . var. *gnoma*.<sup>2</sup>

**3. *G. ferrugineum*.** Tail crossed by seven to nine continuous bands of dark brown and bright rufous, of nearly equal width. Above varying from grayish-brown to bright ferruginous; beneath varying from pure white to pale rufous, the stripes on the sides like the back. Wing, 3.70-4.15; tail, 2.20-2.90; culmen, .45-.50; tarsus, .70-.80; middle toe, .70-.75. *Hab.* Tropical America, from southern border of United States to Southern Brazil.

## ***Glaucidium passerinum*, var. *californicum* (SCLATER).**

### **THE CALIFORNIA PIGMY OWL.**

*Glaucidium californicum*, SCLATER, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1857, p. 4. *Glaucidium passerinum*, var. *californicum* (RIDGWAY) COUES, Key, 1872, 206. *Strix passerinoides* (not of TEMMINCK!), AUD. Orn. Biog. V, 271, 1831. *Glaucidium infuscatum* (not of TEMM.), CASS. Birds of Cal. & Tex. p. 189, 1854. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rept. VI, iv, 77, 1857. *Glaucidium gnoma* (not of WAGLER!), CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 62. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. VII, 31, 1857. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, ii, 158, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 14, 1866. — CAB. Jour. 1862, 336. — LORD. Int. Obs. 1865, 409 (habits). — GRAY, Hand List, I, 42, 1869. — CAB. Ueb. Berl. Mus. 1869, 207.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult* (♂, 12,054, Puget Sound, Washington Territory; Dr. C. B. Kennerly). Above, including the auriculars, umber-brown, with a faint reddish cast; this

<sup>1</sup> *Glaucidium infuscatum*, var. *infuscatum*. *Strix infuscata*, TEMM. Ind. Général, 1821. *Athene i.*, BONAP. Consp. 37, 1850 (excl. syn.). *Glaucidium i.*, KAUP, Cont. Orn. 1852, 103. ? *Strix eluta*, ILLIG. in Mus. Berl. Cab. Azar. No. 49. *Strix passerinoides*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 344. *Surnia p.*, BONAP. Os. Cuv. Règ. An. I, 57. *Noctua p.*, LESS. Man. & Tr. Orn.

<sup>2</sup> *Glaucidium infuscatum*, var. *gnoma*. *Glaucidium gnoma*, WAGL. Isis, 1832, 275. — KAUP, Monog. *Strigidae*, in Contr. to Orn. 1852, 103 (under *G. infuscatum*). — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 163, 1855 (under *G. infuscatum*). *Athene gnoma*, GRAY, Gen. Birds, fol. sp. 35, 1844. *Hab.* Whole of Middle America, from Panama northward to the Rio Grande and Mazatlan. Probably yet to be found in Texas or New Mexico.

tinge most apparent in a sharply defined band across the throat. The continuity of the brown above is interrupted by a scarcely observable collar round the nape of concealed whitish; this is discernible only laterally, where there is also an inconspicuous black space. Whole head above, and neck behind, with numerous small circular spots of reddish-white; back, scapulars, and wings more sparsely and more minutely marked with the same; the two or three lower feathers of the secondary coverts have each a terminal, somewhat oval, larger spot of pure white. Secondaries crossed by three (exposed) bands of pure white, and narrowly tipped with the same; the bands formed by semicircular spots on the outer webs. Primaries almost plain, but showing faintly defined obsolete bands, — the third, fourth, and fifth with two or three conspicuous white spots on outer webs, beyond their emargination; primary coverts perfectly plain. Tail considerably darker than the wings, and purer umber; crossed with seven narrow bands of pure white, the last of which is terminal and not well defined, — these bands are formed by transverse spots, not touching the shaft on either web. Lores, sides of the forehead, sides of the throat (beneath the cheeks and ear-coverts), and lower parts in general, pure white; the ante-orbital white continuing back over the eye to its middle, but not beyond it. Lateral portion of the neck and breast (confluent with the gular belt), and sides, umber, like the back, but more numerous, though more obsoletely, speckled, the spots rather larger and more longitudinal on the sides. Breast, abdomen, anal region, and lower tail-coverts with narrow longitudinal stripes of nearly pure black. Jugulum immaculate. Tarsi mottled on the outside with brown. Lining of the wing white; a transverse patch of blackish across the ends of the under primary coverts, formed by the terminal deltoid spot of each feather; a blackish stripe, formed of blended streaks (parallel with the edge of the wing), running from the bend to the primary coverts. Under surface of primaries dusky, with transverse spots of white anterior to the emargination; these white spots on the longest quill are eight in number. Axillars plain white.

Wing, 3.60; tail, 2.60; culmen, .45; tarsus, .60; middle toe, .55. Wing-formula, 4, 3, 5-2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1.

♀ (36,874, Fort Whipple, near Prescott, Arizona, October 11, 1864; Dr. Coues). In general appearance scarcely different from the male. Upper surface more ashy, the specks of whitish less numerous, being confined chiefly to the head; those on the scapulars, however, are large, though very sparse. The middle wing-coverts have each a conspicuous roundish white spot near the end of the outer web; the secondary coverts are similarly marked, forming a band across the wing. The primaries and tail are as in the male, except that the latter has eight, instead of seven, white bands. The brown of the gular band extends upward over the throat to the recurved feathers of the chin; the white dots in the brown of the sides are considerably larger and (though very irregular) more circular than in the male; the stripes on the abdomen, etc., are rather broader and less deeply black than in the male. Wing, 4.00; tail, 2.80; culmen, .48. (Wing-formula as in male.)

HAB. Pacific Province of North America, from Vancouver Island southward; Arizona (Fort Whipple); Colorado (El Paso Co., AIKEN); Table-lands of Mexico (Coll., G. N. LAWRENCE). Perhaps whole of the Western Province, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific.

One specimen in the collection (59,069) differs from those described in much darker colors. The original label is lost, but it was probably received from the northwest coast, as the darker, more reddish colors bear about the same relation to the paler gray tints of the southern birds that the dark northwest coast style of *Scops asio* (var. *kennicotti*) does to the true *asio*. The stripes beneath are nearly pure black, the general tint above being a reddish sepia-brown. Wing, 3.65; tail, 2.70.

The *Glaucidium californicum* requires comparison only with the *G. passerinum* of Europe, to which it is quite closely related, though easily distinguishable by the characters pointed out in the diagnoses; it is not at all like *gnoma*, nor indeed any other American species, with which it has been confounded by nearly all ornithologists, even by Cabanis, in his excellent paper above cited.

I have seen only one Mexican specimen of this species, which is one in Mr. Lawrence's collection; the locality is not given, but it is probably from the higher regions of the interior. It differs in no respect, except in size, from North American examples; it measures, wing, 3.40; tail, 2.60.



*Glaucidium californicum.*

**HABITS.** This species, one of the smallest of our North American Owls, was first obtained on the Columbia River by Dr. Townsend, near Fort Vancouver; and subsequently, Dr. Merideth Gairdner procured several others from the same locality, which were sent to the Edinburgh Museum. Dr. Townsend's specimen was said to have been taken on the wing at midday.

Dr. Cooper met with a single specimen in Washington Territory early in November, 1854. He observed it among a flock of Sparrows, that did not seem at all disturbed by its presence. At first he mistook it for one of these birds. Its stomach was found to contain only insects.

Dr. Suckley obtained two specimens at Puget Sound, where he found it moderately abundant. It seemed to be diurnal in its habits, gliding about in shady situations in pursuit of its prey. He saw one about midday in a shady alder-swamp near Nisqually. It flitted noiselessly past him several times, alighting near by, on a low branch, as if to examine the intruder.

Near a small lake in the neighborhood of Fort Steilacoom, Dr. Suckley frequently heard the voice of a diminutive Owl, which he supposed to come from one of these birds, as this is the only small species of the family he ever saw in that neighborhood. The notes were subdued and clear, like the soft, low notes of a flute.

Dr. Newberry procured specimens of the Pigmy Owl on the Cascade Mountains, in Oregon, where, however, it was not common. It occurs also in California, as he saw several individuals in San Francisco that had been obtained in that State, but he did not meet with any in the Sacramento Valley. It was apparently confined to wooded districts, which is probably the reason why it is not more frequent in the open country of California. He adds that it flies about with great freedom and activity by day, pursuing



the small birds upon which it subsists, apparently as little incommoded by the light as they are. It is, however, doubtful whether it subsists, to any large extent, on small birds. So far as observed it appears to feed almost exclusively on insects, although the Owl taken by Townsend is said to have had the entire body of a *Regulus* in its stomach.

Dr. Cooper speaks of this Owl as not uncommon in the middle part of California, though he did not meet with it in the southern part of the State. It is, probable that it is occasional in Southern California, as it has been found in Mexico, where however, it is undoubtedly rare, as Mr. Ridgway informs me that only a single specimen of this Owl, among a hundred others from Mexico, has ever been seen by him.

Dr. Heermann met with this beautiful little species among the mountainous districts of the mining regions of California, where it was by no means rare. It was, however, seldom captured by him, and he regarded its flying by night as the reason; but this view is not corroborated by the observations of others. In 1852 he procured three specimens on the borders of the Calaveras River, others were taken on the Cosumnes River, and Mr. J. G. Bell, of New York, met with it on the American River, thus demonstrating its wide and general distribution throughout the State.

Mr. John K. Lord met with a pair on Vancouver Island. He characterizes the bird as of shy and solitary habits, always hiding among the thick foliage of the oak or pine, except when feeding. Early one spring, while collecting specimens of the smaller migrant birds, he was favored with unusual opportunities for watching their habits. The pair had made their home in the hollow of an oak-tree that stood in an open patch of gravelly ground near a small lake. The remains of an Indian lodge which was close to the place enabled Mr. Lord to watch closely the habits of this interesting pair. In the first morning twilight the Owls were up and in motion, hungry after a whole night's fasting. Their flight was short, quick, and jerking, similar to that of the Sparrow Hawk, but wholly unlike the muffled, noiseless flap of the Night Owls. Their food was found to be entirely insectivorous, chiefly grasshoppers and field-cricket, with an occasional beetle or butterfly. When in pursuit of food, they perch on a small branch near the ground, and sit bolt upright in an indolent drowsy manner until their quick eye detects an insect, when they suddenly pounce upon it, hold it down with their small but powerful claws, and with their sharp beaks tear it to pieces. Only the soft abdominal parts are thus eaten. As soon as their hunger is satiated they return to the tree, cuddling close together, and doze away the greater part of the day. In the evening twilight the Owls again come out of their hole and take erratic flights around their abode, chasing each other up and down the plain, and performing all kinds of inexplicable manœuvres. Occasionally they settle on the ground, but never long at a time.

Mr. Lord never observed them to capture an insect while on the wing,

and a very small quantity of food seemed to supply their wants. As soon as it became dark they retired to their nest, and there apparently passed the night.

To this account Mr. Lord adds, that early in May two small eggs were laid, white in color, round and very rough on their surface, a large knot-hole in the branch of the tree having been selected as the nesting-place. Nothing of any kind was used as a lining, the eggs being deposited on the bare wood. The length of time occupied in incubation Mr. Lord was not able to ascertain in consequence of the shortness of his stay.

## **Glaucidium ferrugineum, KAUP.**

### **THE RED-TAILED OWL.**

*Strix ferruginea*, MAX. Reis. Bras. I, 105, 1820; Trav. Bras. p. 88; Beitr. III, 234. — TEMM. Pl. Col. 199. — LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 373. *Noctua f.*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. ii, p. 69. — LESS. Man. Orn. I, 111; Tr. Orn. 104. — CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 346. — TSCHUDI, Av. Consp. Wieg. Archiv. 1844, 267; Faun. Per. pp. 19, 117. *Surnia f.*, BONAP. Oss. Cuv. Règ. An. p. 56; Isis, 1833, 1053. *Athene f.*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 17; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 92. — BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 38. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 162, 1855. *Glaucidium f.*, KAUP, Mon. Strig. Cont. Orn. 1852, 104. — BURM. Thier. Bras. II, 141, 146. — CABAN. Ueb. Berl. Mus. 1869, 206. — COUES, Am. Nat. VI, 370 (Arizona). — IB. Key, 1872, 206. *Athene nana* (KING), GRAY, Gen. 1844, pl. xii (normal plumage).

#### *a. Normal plumage.*

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, 23,792, Mazatlan, Mexico; J. Xantus). Upper surface umber-brown, more ashy anteriorly, posteriorly more brownish. Head above with a few narrow longitudinal lines of yellowish-white, anteriorly and laterally; a quite distinct collar of whitish spots across the nape, the black lateral spaces rather obsolete; scapulars with a few conspicuous oval spots of pure white; two lower feathers of secondary coverts each with a similar spot on outer web. Secondaries darker brown, crossed with five bands of dull rufous, the last not terminal; outer webs of primaries with semicircular pale spots along the margin, these nearly white beyond the sinuation of the feathers, anteriorly brownish. Tail bright rufous, crossed with about seven distinct bands of dark brown, these hardly equalling the rufous in width, which is also terminal. Longitudinal stripes of the sides of the same soft grayish-brown tint as the head; tarsi sparsely speckled with the same on outer side. Wing-formula, 4, 5, 3-6-7, 2, 8; first shortest. Wing, 3.70; tail, 2.20; culmen, .45; tarsus, .70; middle toe, .70.

#### *b. Rufescent plumage.*

*Adult*. Upper surface continuously deep lateritious-rufous, all the lighter markings almost obliterated. Bars on the tail scarcely traceable. Black cervical transverse space conspicuous. Sides of the breast and stripes of the sides duller rufous than the tint above; white of ground-color with yellowish tinge; legs pale rufous, deepest on outer side, immaculate. Gular collar blackish.

♂ (43,055, La Palma, Costa Rica, January 27, 1866; José Zeledon). Wing-formula, 4 = 5, 3-6-2; first shortest. Wing, 3.80; tail, 2.40.

♀ (33,216, San José, Costa Rica; J. Carmiol). Wing-formula, 4, 3 = 5-6, 2; first shortest. Wing, 4.15; tail, 2.90; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .75.

HAB. Whole of eastern South America, and Middle America (both coasts) north into southern border of United States (Arizona, BENDIRE; probably entire southern border).

The numerous specimens examined come from the Rio Grande of Texas (across the whole breadth of Middle America) to Paraguay, everywhere the same species, those from the extremes of its range showing scarcely any difference.

A specimen of the ferruginous plumage, in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy, is remarkable for the great intensity and uniformity of the rufous; the entire plumage, in fact, being of this color, a fine light tint of which replaces the white below. There is no trace of bars on either wings or tail.

In the very large series before me I find in individuals every possible shade between the two extremes described. Over fifty specimens have come under my notice.

HABITS. This little Owl claims a place in our fauna on the strength of several specimens taken in Southern Arizona by Captain Bendire. It is a southern bird, found throughout the whole of Mexico, and ranges thence though the whole of South America, except the Pacific coast, as far south as Southern Brazil. In Mexico it is as abundant on the Pacific as on the eastern coast, and is by far the most common Owl of its genus found in that country.

Mr. E. C. Taylor states that he found this bird pretty common in Trinidad, where it is said to fly about in the daytime, apparently indifferent to the blazing tropical sun, and is much smaller than any other species of Owl he met with.

#### GENUS **MICRATHENE**, COUES.

*Micrathene*, COUES, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1866, 57. (Type, *Athene whitneyi*, COOPER.)

GEN. CHAR. Size very small (the smallest Owl known); head small, and without ear-tufts. Bill and feet weak. Tail short, less than half the wing, even. Nostril small,



*Micrathene whitneyi*.

circular, opening in the middle of the much inflated ceral membrane. Tarsus a little longer than the middle toe, naked, scantily haired, as are also the toes. Four outer quills with their inner webs sinuated; fourth longest. Ear-

conch very small, simple, roundish. Bill pale greenish; iris yellow.

This well-marked genus is represented by a single species, found in the Colorado region of the United States, and in Western Mexico. It is the

smallest of all known Owls, and has the general aspect of a *Glaucidium*. From the fact that feathers of birds were found in its stomach, we may reasonably infer that it is of exceedingly rapacious habits, like the species of that genus.

### Species.

**M. whitneyi.** Above grayish olive-brown, sprinkled with small, rather obscure, spots of pale rusty, and interrupted by a whitish nuchal collar; outer webs of the lower series of scapulars pure white. Wings spotted with white and pale fawn-color; tail grayish-brown, crossed by five to six narrow interrupted bands of pale fawn-color. Eyebrows and lores pure white; a cravat of the same on the chin. Beneath white, marked with large, rather longitudinal, ragged blotches of pale rusty, mottled with dusky. Bill pale greenish; iris yellow. Length, 5.50 – 6.25; extent of wings, 14.25 – 15.25 (measurements of freshly killed specimens). Wing, 4.00 – 4.40; tail, 1.90 – 2.30. *Hab.* Fort Mohave, California (April), and Socorro Island, west coast of Mexico.

### **Micrathene whitneyi, COUES.**

#### WHITNEY'S OWL.

*Athene whitneyi*, COOPER, Proc. Cal. Acad. Sc. 1861, p. 118. *Micrathene whitneyi*, COUES, Pr. Ac. Nat. Sc. Philad. 1866, 15. — ELLIOT, Illust. Am. B. I, xxix. — GRAYSON (LAWRENCE), Ann. N. Y. Lyc. — COUES, Key, 1872, 207.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, 208, J. G. Cooper, Fort Mohave, California, April 26, 1861). Above umber-brown (less pure and uniform than in *Glaucidium*), each feather with an irregular, transversely elliptical spot of pale rufous, these largest on the forehead, bordering the white eyebrows; the feathers everywhere minutely mottled transversely with darker, this being most noticeable where bordering the yellowish spots. Scapulars with their outer webs almost wholly white. Wings with the ground-color a little darker than the back; lesser coverts with numerous spots of light rufous, there being two on each feather, one concealed; middle and secondary coverts with a very large oval spot of pure white terminating the outer webs, the white spot on the latter preceded by a pale rufous one. Secondaries with five (exposed) bands of pale ochraceous (the last terminal), these passing into white on the edge; primary coverts with three large ochraceous spots; primaries with about six (including the terminal) conspicuous spots of the same, those anterior to the emargination, on the third, fourth, and fifth quills, almost white. Tail like the wings, but more uniform; crossed by six irregular narrow bands of pale ochraceous, the last, or terminal, of which is not well defined; these do not touch the shaft, and on the inner webs they are pure white. Lores and eyebrows, cheeks, lining of the wings, and ground-color of the lower parts, white; ear-coverts and sub-orbital space like the crown, but more rusty; lateral lower parts much washed with plumbeous, this especially prevalent on the flanks. Behind the sharply defined white of the cheeks is a black transverse wash. Throat, jugulum, breast, and abdomen, with each feather having a medial longitudinal ragged-edged blotch of pale rufous, these blotches most clearly defined on the abdomen, more confused anteriorly; anal region and tibiæ almost immaculate; tibiæ with numerous transverse narrow blackish bars, on a pale ochraceous ground. Lining of the wing faintly spotted at the bend, and on the primary coverts, the terminal half of which is plain dusky; under surface of primaries blackish, with obscure transverse paler spots, — those anterior to the emargination almost white; those beyond darker, the



last being scarcely distinguishable; on the longest quill eight can be detected. Wing-formula, 4, 3 = 5 - 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 - 1. Length, "6.25"; extent, "15.25"; wing, 4.40; tail, 2.30; culmen, .35; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .60.

A male from Socorro Island (49,678, Colonel A. J. Grayson) is less adult than the preceding. The upper plumage is more brownish and more mottled; the rufous spots, though deeper and larger, are less sharply defined; the spots on the primaries are all ochraceous; the bands on the tail are broader, though of the same number. Beneath the longitudinal blotches do not appear, but the rusty rufous covers nearly the whole surface, leaving the medial portion only white, and this not well defined; the rusty shows ragged minute transverse bars of blackish. The whitish collar round the nape is also better defined than in the type. Wing, 4.20; tail, 2.10. Wing-formula, 4, 3 = 5 - 6, 2 - 7, 8, 9, 10, 1. Length, 5.20; extent, 14.25.

Another specimen, 50,765, from the same locality, also apparently immature, is just like the preceding in plumage. It measures, wing, 4.00; tail, 1.90.

**HABITS.** The type specimen of this diminutive species was shot at Fort Mohave, in the Colorado Valley, latitude 35°, April 26, 1861, and two others have since been taken on the Socorro Islands, off the western coast of Mexico, by Colonel Grayson. It is smaller even than the little California Pygmy Owl, and is therefore the smallest known to inhabit North America. It resembles that species in its colors, but is thought by Dr. Cooper to be more similar to the burrowing Owls in its generic characters. It was found in a dense thicket, on a very windy morning, and where it may have taken only a temporary refuge, after having been blown down from some of the caverns in the barren mountains surrounding the valley. In its stomach were found the remains of insects and



*Micrathene whitneyi.*

the feathers of small birds. Several specimens of this Owl were taken in Arizona by Captain Bendire, one of which is now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. Captain Bendire also found one of their nests, with two fully fledged young ones, in a hole of a mesquite stump.

#### GENUS **SPEOTYTO**, GLOGER.

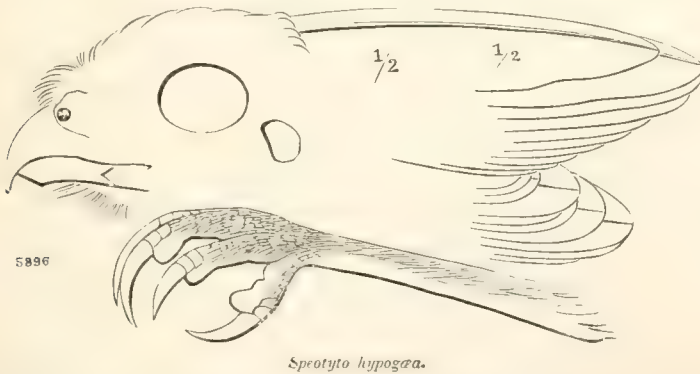
*Speotyto*, "GLOGER, 1842." (Type, *Strix canicularia*, MOL.)

"*Phodopterus*, KAUF. 1848." (Same type.)

**GEN. CHAR.** Size small; head small, and without ear-tufts. Bill moderately strong, pale yellowish. Tarsi more than twice as long as the middle toe, feathered in front,

naked behind; toes scantily haired. Tail short, less than half the wing, nearly even, or very slightly rounded. Three outer quills with their inner webs emarginated; second to fourth longest. Ear-conch very small, simple, roundish. Diurnal and terrestrial.

This genus is peculiar to America, where it is distributed over the whole of the southern and the western half of the northern continent, as well as in some of the West India Islands. There appears to be but one well-characterized species,<sup>1</sup> this one modified into representative races in the several geographical provinces over which it ranges. The species is terrestrial, inhabiting the abandoned burrows of Armadillos and Rodents. It is



diurnal, possessing as much freedom of sight, hearing, and motion in the brightest sunlight, as any species of the *Falconidæ*.

### Species and Races.

**S. cunicularia.** Colors umber-brown and ochraceous-white, the former predominating above, the latter prevailing below. Upper parts spotted with whitish; lower parts transversely barred with brown on the breast and sides, and sometimes on the abdomen. A white gular patch, and jugular collar, with a brown band between them. Legs, crissum, anal and femoral regions, always immaculate.

**A.** Primaries with broad regular bars of ochraceous-white on both webs; primary coverts with large spots of the same.

Brown markings of the lower parts irregularly transverse, and ragged. White spots on the upper parts nearly equal in extent to the brown.

Wing, 6.15 – 6.40; tail, 2.90 – 3.60; culmen, .58 – .62; tarsus, 1.50 – 1.80; middle toe, .65. *Hab.* Peru . . . var. *grallaria*.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gray, in his "Hand List," gives in addition *S. fuscæ*, VIEILL., a West Indian ("Antilles") species, which proves to be not congeneric with *S. cunicularia*, and also *S. dominicensis* (GM.) MULL., which I cannot identify as one of the races of *S. cunicularia*.

<sup>2</sup> *Speotyto cunicularia*, var. *grallaria*? (*Strix grallaria*, SPINX, Av. Braz. I, 21, 1824. — ? TEM. Pl. Col. 146. I am by no means satisfied that this form is the true *grallaria*, but it seems to come nearer to it than any other described. Three specimens (two from Peru, in the National Museum, and one, without label, in the Museum of the Boston Society of Natural History) have been examined, and agree in the characters diagnosed above.

Brown markings on the lower parts regularly transverse, and not reduced. White spots on the upper parts much less than the brown in extent.

Wing, 7.00-7.50; tail, 3.30-4.00; culmen, .70; tarsus, 1.70-1.85; middle toe, .85. Outer tail-feathers and inner webs of primaries with the white much greater in amount than the brown (sometimes continuous along outer webs of the latter).

*Hab.* Southern South America (Chile, Buenos Ayres, Paraguay, etc.). . . . . var. *cunicularia*.<sup>1</sup>

Wing, 6.40-7.00; tail, 3.00-3.30; culmen, .50-.60; tarsus, 1.50-1.70; middle toe, .80. Outer tail-feathers and inner webs of the primaries with the white less in extent than the brown (never continuous along outer webs of the primaries). *Hab.* Middle America, and Western Province of North America . . . . . var. *hypogæa*.

**B.** Primaries without broad or regular bars of whitish on either web; primary coverts plain brown.

Brown markings on the lower parts regularly transverse, and equal in extent to the white. White spots on the upper parts very small, reduced to mere specks on the dorsal region.

Wing, 6.40; tail, 3.40; culmen, .60; tarsus, 1.82; middle toe, .85. Outer tail-feathers and inner webs of the primaries with the light (ochraceous) bars only about one fourth as wide as the brown (disappearing on the inner quills). *Hab.*

Guadeloupe . . . . . var. *guadeloupensis*.<sup>2</sup>

## ***Spheotyto cunicularia*, var. *hypogæa*, BONAP.**

### **BURROWING OWL**

*Strix hypogæa*, BONAP. Am. Orn. I, 72, 1825. *Athene hypogæa*, BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 39, 1850. — WOODH. (SITGR.) Expl. Zuni and Colorado, p. 62, 1853. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 59. — NLWR. P. R. R. Rept. VI, 77, 1857. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, II, 157, 1860. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 52, 1869. *Speotyto cunicularia*, var. *hypogæa*, (RINGWAY) COULS, Key, 1872, 207. *Strix cunicularia* (not of MOLINA), AUD. B. Am. pl. ccccxviii, 1831; Orn. Biog. V, 264; Synop. p. 22. — NUTT. Man. Orn. p. 118, 1844. — BONAP. Am. Orn. p. 68, pl. vii, f. 2, 1825; Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 36. — JAMES. (WILS.), Am. Orn. IV, 30. — SAY, Long's Exp. Rocky Mts., II, 36, 200. *Ulula cunicularia*, JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. III, 325, 1832. *Athene cunicularia*, BONAP. List, p. 6; Consp. Av. p. 38. STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 160, 1855. — CASSIN, Birds N. Am. 1858, 60. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, II, 157, 1860. — CANFIELD, Am. Nat. 1869, 583 (habits). *Strix californica*, AUD. B. Am. pl. ccccxviii, 1831. *Athene socialis*, GAMB. Pr. Acad. Nat. Sc. Phil. III, 47, 1846.

<sup>1</sup> *Speotyto cunicularia*, var. *cunicularia*. *Strix cunicularia*, MOLINA, St. Chil. 1782, 343. GMEI. S. N. 292, sp. 28. and of other authors referring to the South American bird.

<sup>2</sup> *Speotyto cunicularia*, var. *guadeloupensis*, RINGWAY. This bird is merely a very dark local form of the common species, though it differs very appreciably in the sharper definition, greater extent, and more intense tint of the brown markings of its plumage.

I have been unable to find any description of this form, and believe it to be unnamed. It is certainly not the *S. delawarensis*, GMEI. (S. N. 296, *S. delawarensis*, MULL. GRAY'S Hand List, 43, No. 438), nor *S. fasciata*, VENT. (GRAY'S Hand List, No. 439). The type is in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History, and belongs to the Lafresnaye collection (No. 787).

**Sp. CHAR.** *Adult.* Above earth-brown, the whole surface covered with numerous spots of dull white, — those on the scapulars roundish, and in pairs (on both webs); of similar form, but larger and more sparse, on the wings. Anteriorly they become more longitudinal (nearly linear), and medial; on the rump and upper tail-coverts, they are nearly obsolete. Secondaries crossed by four distinct bands of dull white, the last terminal; primaries with five to six transverse series of semi-rounded spots of ochraceous-white on their outer webs; primary coverts with about three transverse series of whitish spots. Tail with five to six bands of dull white, or pale ochraceous (the last terminal), composed of transverse oval spots, those on the middle pair of feathers not touching either the shaft or the edge. Ear-coverts uniform brown, becoming gradually paler beneath the eye and on the cheeks; eyebrows, a transverse chin-patch, — covering the whole chin and jaw and reaching back beneath the auriculars, and another across the jugulum, immaculate cottony-white; shafts of the loral bristles blackish; a broad, well-defined collar across the throat, between the white malar and jugular bands, deep brown, mixed with paler spots.

Beneath white with a faint ochraceous tinge, especially on the legs; the breast, abdomen, and sides with transverse spots of brown, this often predominating on the breast; legs, anal region, and crissum, immaculate. Whole lining of the wing immaculate creamy-white, the primary coverts, however, with large terminal spots of dusky; under surface of the primaries grayish-brown, deeper terminally, and with large, transversely ovate spots of ochraceous-white (about five in number on the longest quill), and growing larger basally.

♂. Wing, 6.40–7.00; tail, 3.00–3.30; culmen, .55–.60; tarsus, 1.50–1.70; middle toe, .80. (Smallest, No. 5,183, Fort Pierre, Nebraska; largest, No. 6,881, Sacramento, California.)

♀. Wing, 6.50–6.80; tail, 3.15–3.30; culmen, .51–.55; tarsus, 1.50–1.60; middle toe, .80. (Smallest, No. 45,020, Laredo, Texas; largest, No. 3,971, San José, Lower California.)

*Juv.* Upper surface earth-brown, as in the adult, but entirely uniform, except the wings and tail; upper tail-coverts, and a large oval patch on the wing (covering the middle coverts and the posterior half of the lesser-covert region), plain isabella-white; the anterior portion of the lesser-covert region darker brown than the back. Gular region well-defined pure white; jugular collar conspicuous and unspotted. Whole lower parts immaculate isabella-white.

**HAB.** Western Province of United States, from the Plains to the Pacific, and from the Rio Grande to Cape St. Lucas; Mexico.

Localities: Xalapa (SCL 1857, 290); Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 330; resident).

Specimens never vary in the pattern of coloration, and but little in the relative amount of the brown and white spotting; the shade of the brown and the depth of the ochraceous tinge vary considerably, however, in different individuals, — but irrespective of locality, — the brown being paler and the white purer in summer than in fall and winter, after the new dress is freshly assumed. The brown on the breast varies considerably in quantity, being sometimes nearly uniform, thereby abruptly contrasting with the white jugular band, and again frequently with the brown hardly greater in amount than the white, the two colors being in regular bars, as on the sides and flanks.

There is certainly but one species, or even race, of Burrowing Owl in North America. This is represented in the Smithsonian collection by over



fifty specimens, including examples from all parts of its range. Upon a close inspection of all the specimens in this extensive series, I was very much surprised to find so little variation; indeed, all the specimens are so much alike that a detailed description of the colors of one would answer for almost any individual. The shade of color varies mainly according to the age of the feathers, those newly acquired having a darkness of tint and a softness of texture not seen in those more worn (as in midsummer dress), which have a bleached or faded appearance. I fail entirely to detect the different styles of plumage which Mr. Cassin has described, and his diagnoses of two supposed species will not at all hold good when applied to specimens from either of the two regions which they were considered to characterize.

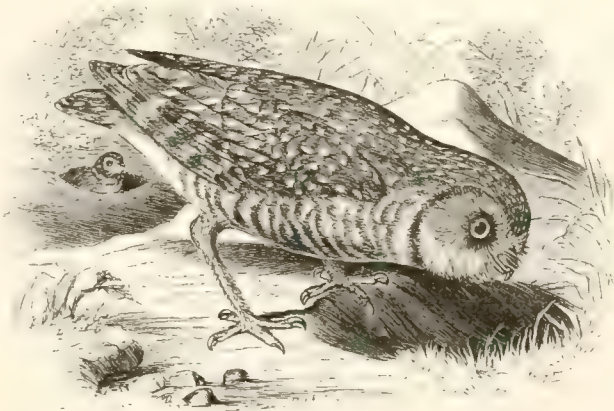
Examining critically the large series at my command, I find that the principal discrepancy among individuals is the amount of feathering on the tarsus; this extending to the toes was supposed to characterize the *A. cunicularia* of North America the habitat of which was considered as restricted in North America to the west of the Rocky Mountains (see Cassin, Birds of North America, as cited above); the nearly naked tarsus was believed to be characteristic of the *A. hypogæa*, as restricted, and the habitat assigned to this was "from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains." Now, dividing the series under examination into two sets, according to this feature, we have, first, *cunicularia* from the following localities: from the Rio Grande, all specimens but one; Tongue River, Montana; and Petaluma, Santa Clara, and San Francisco, California. Next, *hypogæa* represents the following localities, besides places within the range ascribed to it: Utah; Lower California, including Cape St. Lucas, all specimens; San Diego, California, several specimens; Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Fort Tejon, California; and Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Though we have but one species or form in North America, the South American bird is different: this is the true *cunicularia* of Molina, and though not specifically distinct from our bird, is nevertheless an easily recognized geographical race. It is larger, the wing measuring from 7.00 to 7.50, instead of 6.40 to 7.00; the brown of the plumage is appreciably darker than that of most specimens of *hypogæa*, but less extended; on the outer web of the primaries the white spots are larger, — sometimes confluent along the edge, — and on their inner webs the white largely prevails, the dusky bars appearing only towards the ends; the outer tail-feather is almost wholly white, instead of having brown bars, broader than the white ones. Of the var. *cunicularia* there are eight specimens in the collection (chiefly from Paraguay, Buenos Ayres, and Chile), while numerous others, in various collections, have been examined besides. All the American forms of this subgenus seem clearly referrible to one species, as being at the most but geographical races.

HABITS. The Burrowing Owl of North America inhabits the country

between the Pacific coast and the Mississippi River, especially in the lower plains in Nebraska and in Kansas, as well as in particular districts in Utah, Arkansas, New Mexico, the Indian Territory, Texas, Arizona, California, and Mexico. They are usually very abundant, congregating together in large communities, and differing from most members of their family by living and breeding in burrows in the ground. Their habits are peculiar and interesting.

Thomas Say, during Colonel Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains, was the first of American naturalists to meet with



*Strix hupazæa*

this bird. He encountered it in our trans-Mississippian Territories, where he described it as residing exclusively in the villages of the prairie-dog, whose excavations are so commodious as to make it unnecessary for the bird to dig for itself, which it is able to do when occasion requires. These villages are very numerous, and variable in their extent, sometimes covering only a few acres, and at others spreading over the surface of the country for miles together. They are composed of slightly elevated mounds, having the form of a truncated cone, about two feet in width at base, and seldom rising as high as eighteen inches above the surface. The entrance is at the top or on the side. From the entrance the passage descends vertically one or two feet, and thence it continues obliquely downward until it terminates in the snug apartment where these animals enjoy their winter's sleep, and where they and the Owls are common, but unfriendly, occupants.

Mr. Dresser noticed this bird at all seasons, in the prairie country of Texas. They were rather common near the Rio Leon and Medina, and in one place he found they had taken possession of some deserted rat-holes. He obtained several specimens near San Antonio and at Eagle Pass. In the latter place he found them quite common on the sand plains near the town. The stomachs of those he shot were found to contain coleopterous insects and field-mice.

Dr. Newberry states that he found this species in Northern California, in several places between San Francisco and Fort Reading, and again at the Klamath Basin, though less frequently at the northward than in the Sacramento Valley. There they occupied the burrows made by the Beechey's

and the Douglass's *Spermophile*. He usually saw them standing at the entrance to these burrows, often permitting him to approach within gun-shot, and before taking to flight twisting their heads about and bowing with many ludicrous gestures, apparently in order to aid their imperfect sight, and to get a better view of the intruder. When shot at or otherwise alarmed, they fly with an irregular jerking motion, dropping down much like a Woodcock.

Dr. Suckley obtained a specimen near Fort Benton, on the Upper Missouri, in Dakotah, and Dr. Cooper procured others thirty-five miles west of Fort Kearney, in Nebraska, in August. He saw them in great numbers on the plains of Nebraska, and did not observe any difference in habits between them and the birds of California.

This species was found in Texas, near Fort Davis, and also at El Paso, by Mr. J. H. Clark. It was taken in Tamaulipas, Mexico, by Lieutenant Couch. Mr. Clark remarks that they were seen by him only in the prairie-dog towns, and were found in conjunction with the rattlesnake, and accuses them of feeding upon the young of the prairie-dog; but this ungrateful requital of the hospitality given them in the burrows of this marmot is discredited by Dr. Kennerly and others, who regard the apparent harmony in which the two dwell together as altogether incompatible with this habit.

This species is also found on our Pacific coast, west of the Rocky Mountains, as far north as British Columbia. Mr. Lord met with it along the entire course of the boundary-line. It was not by any means plentiful, but pairs of them were occasionally seen. While in camp at the Dalles he dug out several squirrel-holes. In one he found two eggs of this species, the female bird, a racer-snake, and a female ground-squirrel (*Spermophilus douglassi*). The Owl he found to be strictly of diurnal habits, feeding principally on crickets, grasshoppers, large beetles, and larvæ. He thinks it never captures small animals or birds, and regards it as a peaceful and harmless bird.

Dr. Kennerly met with this species near Los Angeles, California. At any hour of the day they might be seen seated upon the mounds erected around the holes of the marmot, or else with head protruding from its orifice, disappearing immediately when approached. When molested, they commence bowing and chattering in a somewhat ludicrous manner at the intruder, or fly swiftly away, keeping near the earth and alighting suddenly in the vicinity of a burrow to renew these amusing motions. He found it very abundant in the valley of the San Gabriel River, where it associated with the large ground-squirrel of that region.

Dr. Heermann, who found them common on the extensive open prairies, speaks of its sight as very clear by day, and adds that it will not allow the hunter on foot to approach within shooting distance; but that, if approached on a horse or a mule, it may be easily shot. The nests he found were formed of a few straws carelessly thrown together at the bottom of its tor-

tuous burrow, which is from six to eight feet in length. The eggs were usually four in number, and are described as nearly spherical, and as pure white.

Dr. Townsend states that this Owl resorts to the forsaken burrows of marmots and badgers, but never lives on terms of intimacy with either. The nest he describes as of fine grass, and placed at the extremity of the hole. The eggs are uniformly four in number, pale white, and about the size of those of the common House Pigeon.

Dr. Gambel, who observed this bird in California, states that he has occasionally found it in solitary burrows, and also that it often makes use of the holes dug by the *Spermophilus beecheyi*. They occasionally dig their own burrows, and live in scattered companies of four or five. Dr. Gambel also states that the bird is a resident of California throughout the year.

Mr. Darwin, in the Zoölogy of the Beagle, met with the var. *cunicularia* in crossing the pampas of South America. In Banda Oriental, he says, it is its own workman, and excavates its burrows on any level spot of sandy soil; but in the pampas, or wherever the Bizcacha is found, it uses those made by that animal. It usually preys on mice and reptiles. Lieutenant Gilliss gives a similar account of it, from observations made in Chile.

Mr. Nathaniel H. Bishop met with *cunicularia* on the banks of the river San Juan, in Banda Oriental, where a few pairs were seen, devouring mice and insects. After crossing the river Las Vacas, and coming upon a sandy waste covered with scattered trees and low bushes, he again encountered it. Upon the pampas of the Argentine Republic they were found in great numbers, from a few miles west of Rosario to the vicinity of San Luis, where the pampas end. On these immense plains of grass it lives in company with the Bizcacha (*Lagostomus trichodactylus*), dwelling with it in perfect harmony, and during the day, while the animal is sleeping, a pair of Owls stand a few inches within the main entrance of the burrow, and at the first sound, be it near or distant, leave their station and remain outside the hole, or upon the mound that forms the roof of their domicile. At the approach of man, both birds, with their irides dilated, mount above him in the air, and keep up an alarm-note until he passes. Then they quietly settle down in the grass, or return to their former place. On the pampas Mr. Bishop did not observe them taking their prey during the daytime, but as soon as the sun had set, the Bizcacha and Owls both leave their holes in search of food, the young of the former playing about the birds as they alight near them. They do not associate in companies, there being but one pair to a hole. Each couple keep separate from their neighbors, and at night do not stray from their homes.

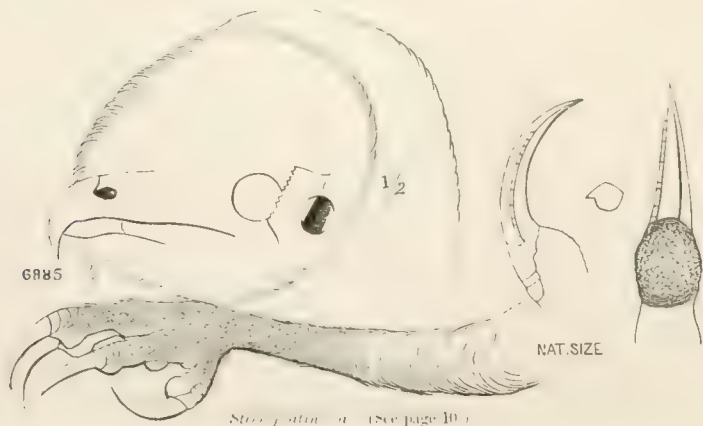
It is both diurnal and nocturnal, and feeds at all hours. Outside the town of San Juan, which lies upon the eastern base of the Andes, Mr. Bishop had a fine opportunity to watch their habits in a locality differing entirely from the pampas. The country around San Juan is a dreary desert, cov-



ered with low thorn-trees, and over this waste a few Owls are found, principally near the town itself, in the vicinity of the pastures that are cultivated by irrigation. They mate in September and October. "One evening," Mr. Bishop writes, "I was attracted by a strange sound that I supposed proceeded from a frog, but it proved to be the love-note of a little *Athene cunicularia*, and which was answered by its mate. It alighted upon a post, and commenced turning around upon it, with throat dilated, and emitting a guttural sound. These antics were continued for more than a minute, it occasionally bowing its head in a mysterious manner. The female soon after joined it, and they flew away. Each night it perched upon a tall flagstaff and uttered its love-note. Close by the house was a lagoon, the borders of which were swampy, and over this a pair often hovered in search of food. I watched one that kept on the wing for nearly two hours, some fifty feet from the ground, and during that time did not change its position in any other way than by rising or falling a few feet. A boy brought me a female with five eggs, that had been taken from a burrow five feet from the mouth. The bird was very fierce, and fought me with her wings and beak, uttering all the while a long shrill note, resembling a file drawn across the teeth of a saw. I supplied her with eleven full-grown mice, which she devoured during the first thirty-six hours of her confinement. It is said to place a small nest of feathers at the end of the hole, in which are deposited five white eggs."

The eggs of the var. *cunicularia* are of a rounded-oval shape, more obtuse at one end than at the other, measure 1.30 inches in length by 1.05 in breadth, and are of a uniform white color, with a slightly bluish tinge.

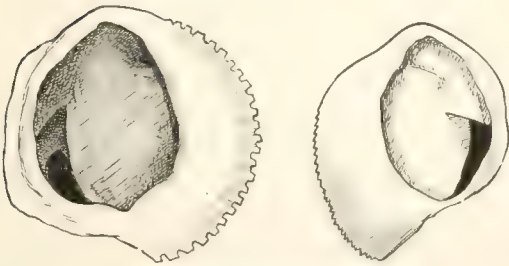
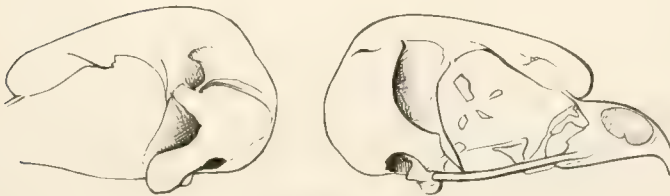
The egg of the *A. hypogaea* is of a rounded-oval shape, equally obtuse at either end, and averages 1.35 inches in length by 1.13 in breadth, and is of a uniform clear white color. This description is taken from an egg obtained by Mr. E. S. Holden near Stockton in California. Captain Bendire writes that he has found as many as nine, and once even ten, eggs in the nest of the North American species.



## NOTE.

THE crania of the Owls present many features of interest, which may serve a good purpose in the definition of the sections and the genera, and to which attention has been occasionally called in the preceding pages. The tendency to asymmetry is especially marked in some species, and the better to illustrate this and other features we append several plates, in which the corresponding views are placed side by side.\* The figures and accompanying lettering tell their own story, without any necessity of a labored description.

R. R.

*Syrnium aluco* (copied from KAUP).*Athene noctua* (from KAUP)*Nyctale richardsoni*.

\* We give, above, three well-marked illustrations of asymmetry: two relating to the auditory apparatus of the two sides of the head, and one of opposite sides of the skull.



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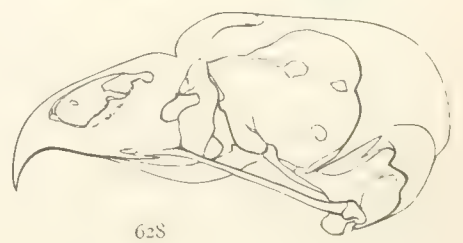
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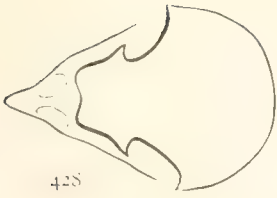
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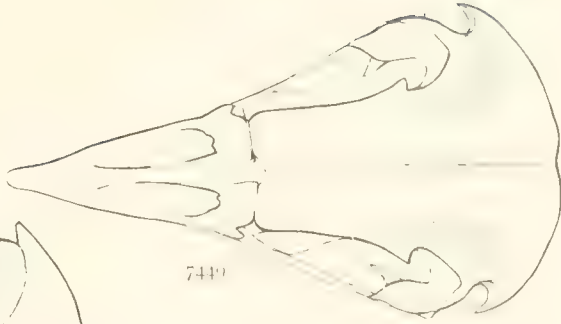
437

7417. *Sturnella magna*, North Carolina.  
 4280. *Sturnella magna*, North Carolina.  
 7272. *Sturnella magna*, North Carolina.  
 428. *Sturnella magna*, North Carolina.  
 7801. *Sturnella magna*, North Carolina.

773. *Red-crested Parula*, North Carolina.  
 414. *Red-crested Parula*, North Carolina.  
 628. *Red-crested Parula*, North Carolina.  
 437. *Red-crested Parula*, North Carolina.



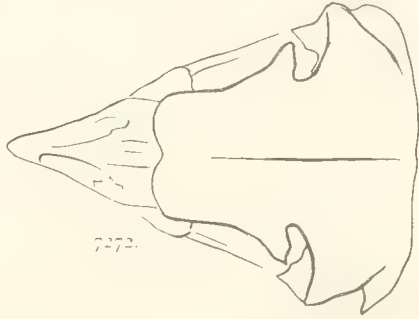
428



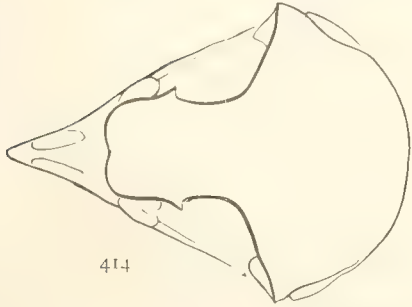
7449



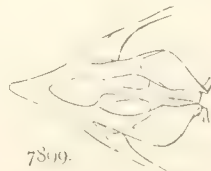
4886



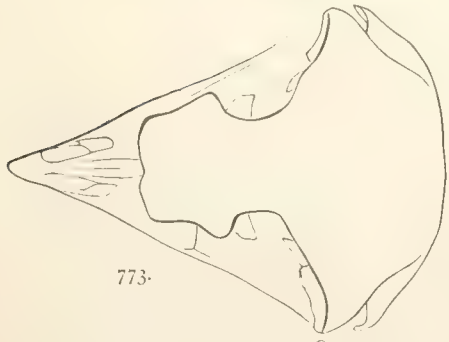
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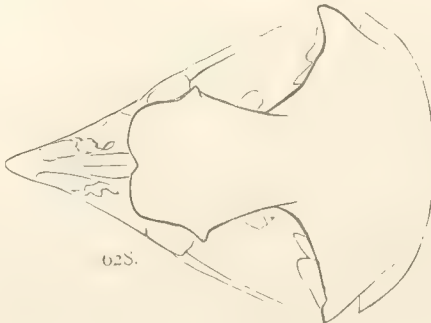
414



7809



773



628



7897



437

- 446. *Strix virginiana*. Natural.
- 428. *Otus virginianus*. Natural.
- 7272. *Scotopelia minor*. Two-thirds.
- 773. *Nyctalex ardens*. Natural.
- 414. *Scotopelia*. Natural.

- 773. *Bubo virginianus*. Two thirds.
- 628. *Nyctalex ardens*.
- 437. *Scotopelia*. Natural.
- 414. *Scotopelia*. Natural.
- 428. *Otus virginianus*.





7449.



4886.



7272.



7217.



414.



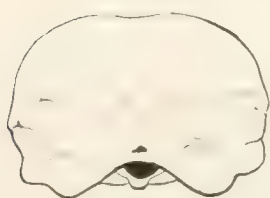
628.



773.



7899.



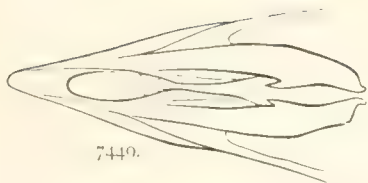
437.



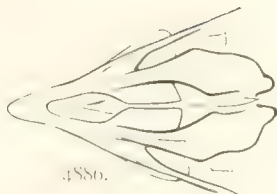
428.

7449. *Strapiparus*. Natural size.  
 4886. *Strapiparus*. Natural size.  
 7272. *Strapiparus*. Two thirds.  
 7217. *Nyctale richardsoni*. Natural size.  
 414. *Scops asio*. Natural size.

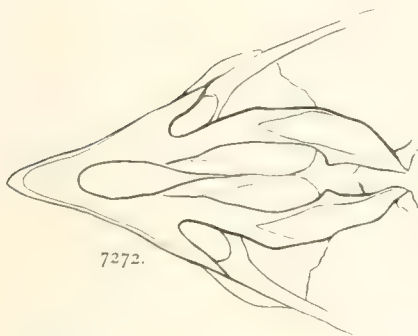
773. *Bubo virginianus*. Two thirds.  
 628. *Nyctea nivea*. Two thirds.  
 7899. *Scopelogadus*. Natural size.  
 437. *Glauclimnys frugum*. Natural size.  
 428. *Sphiestyloxygus*. Natural size.



7449.



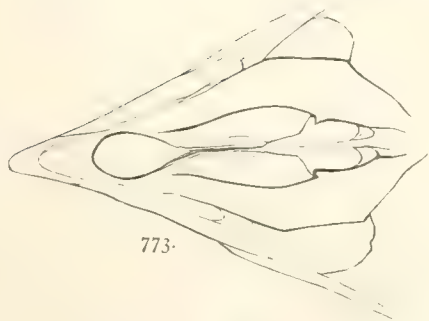
4880.



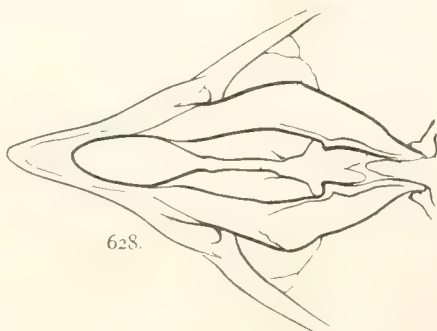
7272.



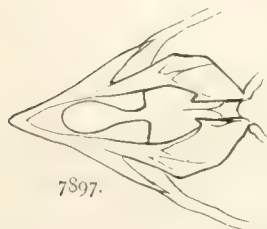
7899



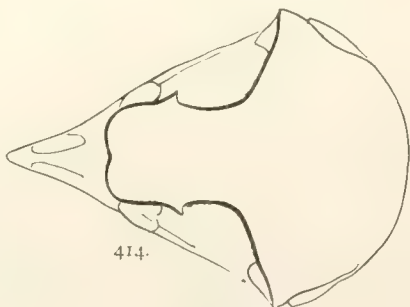
773.



628.



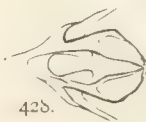
7897.



414.



437.



425.

- 7449 *Strix pratensis*  
 4880 *Otus wilsonianus*  
 7272 *Scotopetex macrurus*  
 7899 *Nystalus harrisi*  
 414 *Scops asio*

- 773 *Bubo virginianus*  
 628 *Nyctalex*  
 7897 *Syrnium*  
 425 *Glaucocheilus*  
 437 *Spinoctytolepage*

(All natural size.)



12088 *Nyctea nyctea* (Farmer) from Swanson, F. B. A.  
 504 *Scolecophagus inornatus*  
 49808 *Sarothamnus olivaceus* (Farmer) from Swanson.  
 A *Brahyotus "cassini"* (Left ear and nostril, from fresh specimen.)

FAMILY **FALCONIDÆ.** — THE FALCONS.

**CHAR.** Eyes directed laterally, and eyelids provided with lashes. Toes invariably naked, and tarsus usually naked and scutellate (feathered only in *Aquila* and *Archibuteo*). Outer toe not reversible (except in *Pandion*). Head never with ear-tufts, and never wholly naked (except in the *Vulturinæ*, of the Old World).

The above characters are about the only readily observable points in the external anatomy in which the *Falconidæ* differ strikingly from the *Strigidæ* and *Cathartidæ*, and may serve to distinguish the birds of this family from those of the two others. The osteological characters, however, as expressed on page 1328, are more decided and important in a taxonomic point of view, and serve to separate the Hawk family as a well-defined group.

In the following treatment of the North American *Falconidæ*, I confine that part relating to the systematic arrangement strictly to the species embraced within the province of our work, for the reason that in a forthcoming monograph of all the American species I hope to present a systematic classification based upon the species of the whole world. All preliminary details regarding the general characteristics and distinctive peculiarities of the family, as well as all discussions and generalizations upon the subject, will therefore be omitted here.

The following synopsis of the North American genera is intended as an artificial arrangement which may enable the student to identify, by simple and readily understood characters, the forms belonging to this country.<sup>1</sup>

**Genera.**

**A.** Nasal bones almost completely ossified, the nostril being a small orifice, with a conspicuous central bony tubercle; its form nearly or quite circular, or linear and oblique (in *Polyborus*), with its upper end the posterior one . . . *Falconinæ*.

**1. Falco.** Nostril circular. Commissure with a prominent tooth and notch; lower mandible abruptly truncated and notched. Primaries stiff and hard, and more or less pointed, the first to the second longest, and the outer one or two with their inner webs cut, the angular emargination being near the end of the quill. Middle toe much more than half as long as the tarsus; claws strongly curved, very acute.

**2. Polyborus.** Nostril linear, oblique, the upper end the posterior one; commissure without prominent tooth nor notch; lower mandible not distinctly truncated or notched. Primaries soft, obtuse, the third longest, and the outer four or five with their inner webs cut, the shallow sinuation being toward the middle of the quill. Middle toe less than half the tarsus; claws weakly curved, very obtuse. Face and cheeks naked, and scantily haired.

<sup>1</sup> As in the case of the *Strigidæ*, my determinations of the North American species of *Falconidæ* were furnished, according to request, to Dr. Coues, for use in his "Key to North American Birds." (R. R.)



**B.** Nasal bones very incompletely ossified, the nostril being a large, more or less oval, opening, of oblique direction, its lower end being invariably the posterior one; without a bony tubercle, and never perfectly circular. (*Accipitrinæ*.)

a. Sides of the head densely feathered close up to the eyelids.

3. **Pandion.** Outer toe reversible; claws contracted and rounded on their under surface, and not graduated in size.<sup>1</sup> Wing long, third quill longest; outer four with inner webs emarginated. Tail rather short, rounded.

4. **Nauclerus.** Outer toe not reversible; claws not contracted or rounded on under side, and graduated in size. Wing long, third quill longest; outer two with inner webs sinuated. Tail excessively lengthened and forked, the lateral pair of feathers more than twice as long as the middle pair.

b. Sides of the head with a more scantily feathered orbital space, with a projecting superciliary "shield" covered with a naked skin.

\* A well-developed membrane, or "web," between the outer and middle toes at the base.

† Tarsus about equal to the middle toe.

§ Claws short and robust; two outer quills with their inner webs cut.

5. **Ictinia.** Commissure irregularly toothed and notched; front of tarsus with transverse scutellæ. Tail emarginated; third quill longest.

6. **Elanus.** Commissure without irregularities; front of tarsus with minute roundish scales. Tail double-rounded; second quill longest.

§§ Claws long and slender; five outer quills with inner webs cut.

7. **Rostrhamus.** End of bill bent downward, with a long pendent hook; inner edge of middle claw slightly pectinated, or serrated. Tail emarginated; third or fourth quill longest.

†† Tarsus very much longer than the middle toe.

¶ Front of tarsus unfeathered, and, with the posterior face, covered with a continuous series of broad transverse scutellæ.

a. Form very long and slender, the head small, the tail and legs long and claws excessively acute; bill weak, compressed, very high through the base, the culmen greatly ascending basally, and the cere much arched; commissure usually with a very prominent "festoon."

8. **Circus.** Face surrounded by a "ruff" of stiffened, differently formed feathers, as in the Owls. Tarsus more than twice as long as the middle toe. Wing very long, hardly concave beneath; third to fourth quill longest; outer four with inner webs sinuated.

9. **Nisus.** Face not surrounded by a ruff. Tarsus less than twice as long as the middle toe. Wing short, very concave beneath, the outer quill much bowed; third to fifth quills longest; outer five with inner webs sinuated.

β. Form short and heavy, the head larger, the tail shorter, the legs more robust. Bill stronger, less compressed, lower through the base, the upper outline less ascending basally, and the cere less arched. Commissure variable.

<sup>1</sup> By this is meant that they are all of equal length and thickness, and not progressively smaller from the posterior one to the outer, as in all *Falconidae* with the sole exception of *Pandion*, though there is a very near approach to this feature in one or two of the species of *Haliaetus*.

10. **Antenor.** Form heavy, the wings and tail moderately long, and feet very robust; bill rather elongated, the commissural lobe prominent, and the base of the culmen somewhat depressed. Fourth quill longest; outer five with inner webs cut. Lores naked, and almost destitute of bristles.

11. **Onychotes.** Outstretched feet reaching beyond end of tail; tibial plumes short, close, not reaching below the joint. Wing short, rounded, very concave beneath, the fourth quill longest; outer five with inner webs sinuated. Tail short, but little more than half the wing, slightly rounded. Claws very long, and extremely acute.

12. **Asturina.** Bill and feet as in *Antenor*; lores densely bristled; wing short, rounded, concave beneath, the third to fourth quills longest; outer four with their inner webs cut.

13. **Buteo.** Form of *Antenor*, but primaries longer and more pointed, the fourth usually longest, and the outer three or four with inner webs cut. Bill and feet as in *Asturina*. Tail moderate, or rather short, nearly even, or slightly rounded.

†† Front of the tarsus densely feathered down to the base of the toes.

14. **Archibuteo.** Feathering of the tarsus interrupted behind by a bare strip along the full length; middle toe less than half as long as the tarsus. Nostril broadly oval, obliquely horizontal; bill weak, the upper outline of the cere much ascending basally. Feathers of the nape normal, blended. Third to fourth quills longest; outer four or five with inner webs cut.

15. **Aquila.** Feathering of the tarsus uninterrupted behind; middle toe more than half as long as the tarsus. Nostril narrowly oval, obliquely vertical; bill strong, the upper outline of the cere nearly parallel with the lower. Feathers of the nape lanceolate, distinct. Fourth quill longest; five to six with inner webs cut.

\*\* No trace of membrane between outer and middle toes.

16. **Haliæetus.** Tarsus feathered in front one third, or more, of the way down; the naked portion with an imperfectly continuous frontal, and less well defined posterior, series of transverse plates, and covered elsewhere with roundish granular scales. Feathers of the neck, all round, lanceolate, distinct. Bill very large, the chord of the culmen more than twice as long as the cere on top; nostril oval, obliquely vertical. Third to fifth quills longest; outer six with inner webs cut. Tail rounded or cuneate, sometimes consisting of fourteen feathers.

The foregoing diagnoses embrace merely the more conspicuous external characters whereby the genera may be most readily distinguished by the student. The following table presents additional accompanying characters afforded by the osteological and anatomical structure, of more importance in defining with precision the several groups embraced in our fauna.

**A.** Scapular process of the coracoid produced forward so as to meet the clavicle<sup>1</sup> (HUXLEY). Nasal bones almost completely ossified, the nostril being a small, usually circular opening, with a raised or "rimmed" margin, and conspicuous, usually central, bony tubercle. Inferior surface of the supermaxillary bone with

<sup>1</sup> As in all the *Syrnula*.

a prominent median angular ridge. Superciliary process of the lachrymal consists of a single piece. (*Lanius*.)

**B.** Scapular process of the coracoid not produced forward so as to meet the clavicle (HUXLEY). Nasal bones incompletely ossified, the nostrils being very large, and without bony rim or tubercle. Inferior surface of the supramaxillary bone without a median ridge. Superciliary process of the lachrymal variable. (*Accipitrinae*.)

*a.* Superciliary process of the lachrymal composed of a single, excessively abbreviated piece;<sup>2</sup> posterior margin of the sternum with a pair of indentations, and without foramina. (*Pernis* and *Nauclerus*.)

*b.* Superciliary process of the lachrymal double, or composed of two pieces, joined by a cartilaginous "hinge," and reaching nearly across the orbit. Posterior margin of the sternum without indentations, and usually with a pair of foramina. (All except *Paralim* and *Nauclerus*.)

† Septum of the orbits and nostrils incompletely ossified (the former always and the latter usually) and with foramina; posterior margin of the sternum most produced backwards laterally, and incompletely ossified, there being usually a pair of foramina. Intestinal canal short, broad, with the duodenum simple, forming a single loop (McGILLIVRAY). A well-developed "web" between the outer and middle toes. (All but *Haliaetus*.)

†† Septum of the orbits and nostrils completely ossified, and without any trace of foramina; posterior margin of the sternum produced medially into a convex lobe, and without any trace of foramina. Intestinal canal extremely elongated, attenuated, with the duodenum arranged in several convolutions (McGILLIVRAY). No trace of a web between outer and middle toes. (*Haliaetus*.)

## SUBFAMILY FALCONINÆ.

### GENUS FALCO, AUCT.

**GEN. CHAR.** Bill strong, its breadth at the base equalling or exceeding its height; upper outline of cere on a level with, or rather lower than, the base of the culmen; gonys much arched, the chord of the arch equalling about half that of the culmen. Near the tip of the upper mandible is a prominent tooth on the commissure, and near the end of the lower mandible, which is truncated, is a deep notch corresponding; the end of the upper mandible is compressed, giving the situation of the tooth an inflated appearance when viewed from above. Nostrils circular, with a conspicuous central tubercle. Orbital region bare; projecting superciliary shield conspicuous, arched, but not very prominent. Tail shorter than wing, the feathers hard and stiff. Primaries very strong, elongated, tapering rapidly toward their points; only the first or first and second with their inner webs emarginated, the cutting being angular, and near the end of the quill. Tarsus never with a single series of transverse scutellæ either in front or behind; middle toe very long.

13077, ♀.

<sup>1</sup> Embracing besides the *Falcones* all the Polyborine genera, besides *Herpethyrus* and *Micrastur*.

<sup>2</sup> As in the Polyborine forms of the *Falconinae*.

## Subgenera.

One primary only with inner web emarginated; first to second longest; first longer than fourth.

Tarsus longer than middle toe, and feathered far below the knee; first quill shorter than third. Coloration of the sexes alike; old and young slightly different in pattern and tints. Size large . . . . . *Hierofalco*.

Tarsus not longer than middle toe, and scarcely feathered below the knee; first quill equal to or longer than the third. Coloration of the sexes alike; old and young very different in pattern and tints. Size, very small to large . . . . . *Falco*.

Two primaries with inner webs emarginated; second to third longest; first shorter than fourth.

Basal joint of toes without transverse scutellæ; tarsus about equal to middle toe.

Coloration of the sexes in adult plumage very different in tints; in the young alike, the young ♂ resembling the adult ♀. Size small . . . . . *Esalon*.

Basal joint of toes with transverse scutellæ; tarsus longer than middle toe.

Coloration of the sexes very different, in pattern and tints, at all ages; old and young alike. Scutellæ of the toes and tarsus interrupted at the digito-tarsal joint; tarsus much longer than middle toe. Bill small, the cere on top less than one fourth the culmen. Size small . . . . . *Tinnunculus*.

Coloration of the sexes alike at all ages; old and young slightly different in pattern and tints. Scutellæ of tarsus and toes uninterrupted from "knees" to claws; tarsus but little longer than middle toe. Bill large, the cere on top about one third the culmen. Size medium; form very slender . . . . . *Rhynchofalco*.

SUBGENUS **HIEROFALCO**, CUVIER.

*Hierofalco*, CUVIER, 1817. (Type, *Falco gyrfalco*, LINN.)

*Jerapfalco*, BOIE, 1822; KAUP, 1851. (Same type.)

*Gennaiia*, KAUP, 1847. (Type, *Falco jugger*, GRAY.)

## Species and Races.

**1. F. gyrfalco.** Wing, 13.00–17.00; tail, 8.50–11.50; culmen, .85–1.05; tarsus, 2.10–3.00; middle toe, 1.80–2.25.<sup>1</sup> Ground-color varying from entirely pure white to wholly dusky, but generally bluish (in adult) or grayish-brown (in young) above, and white beneath. *Adult.* All the markings transverse.<sup>2</sup> No lighter nuchal band. *Young.* Markings of the lower surface longitudinal, the upper parts without transverse bars (except on the tail<sup>3</sup>).

*a.* Lower parts with white predominating, or wholly white.

Lower tail-coverts never with markings. No tinge of blue anywhere on the plumage, the ground-color of which is entirely pure white at all ages.

<sup>1</sup> Extremes of sixty specimens.

<sup>2</sup> Sometimes there are more or less distinct linear streaks on the head and neck, or on the pectoral region.

<sup>3</sup> Sometimes the irregular markings above have a transverse tendency.



1. *Adult*. Upper parts, especially head, streaked with faint vertical lines of dark plumbeous; lower parts immaculate, or else with very faint longitudinal stripes. *Young*. Upper parts with longitudinal stripes of dark plumbeous; lower parts usually conspicuously striped. *Hab.* Greenland (in the breeding-season); in winter, occasionally wandering into the northern portions of Europe and North America . . . . . var. *candicans*.

Lower tail-coverts always with markings. A tinge of ashy-blue more or less prevalent above. Young dusky above.

Head and neck above abruptly lighter than the back. Young plain grayish-brown above, with conspicuous whitish borders to the feathers.

2. *Adult*. Upper parts white, passing into bluish posteriorly; everywhere (except on head and neck) with sharply defined, transverse (not crescentic, but continuous) bars of dark plumbeous. Abdomen and flanks with transverse spots of the same. *Young* without irregular light mottling to the plumage above, and with broad longitudinal stripes beneath. *Hab.* Iceland and Southern Greenland, in the breeding-season; in winter, south into North-eastern United States, and Northern Europe. . . . . var. *islandicus*.

Head and neck above abruptly darker than the back. Young (of var. *sacer*) variegated grayish-brown above, without light borders to the feathers.

3. *Adult*. Top of the head streaked with whitish; back with sharply defined, continuous, narrow transverse bars, of creamy-white. *Hab.* Interior regions of Continental Arctic America (Slave Lake, Yukon, and McKenzie River district) . . . . . var. *sacer*.

4. *Adult*. Top of head not streaked with whitish; back without sharply defined bars of the same. *Hab.* Continental Arctic Europe (Scandinavia) and Siberia. Migrating south, in winter, to Bengal (Hardwicke) . . . . . var. *gyrfalco*.<sup>1</sup>

b. Lower parts with dusky predominating, or wholly dusky.

5. *Adult*. Almost entirely dusky, without well-defined markings anywhere. *Hab.* Littoral regions of the Hudson Bay Territory and Labrador . . . . . var. *labrador*.

**2. F. lanarius.** Wing, 11.50–16.00; tail, 6.60–9.50; culmen, .70–1.00; tarsus, 1.90–2.40; middle toe, 1.65–2.00. Ground-color varying from pale grayish-plumbeous to dark sepia-brown; beneath white, with sparse markings, these coalesced into a broken patch on the flanks. *Adult*. Above obscurely barred transversely with pale ashy and brownish-dusky, the former prevailing posteriorly, the latter anteriorly; a lighter nuchal band. Spots on the sides and flanks transverse. *Young*. Above brown, varying from grayish-drab to dark sepia, the feathers usually bordered with paler (rusty in youngest individuals); markings beneath all longitudinal.

a. Outer webs of tail-feathers with large well-defined light spots; outer webs of the primaries sometimes with light spots on the basal portion;

<sup>1</sup> *Falco gyrfalco*, var. *gyrfalco* (LINN.). *Falco gyrfalco*, LINN. S. N. 1766, p. 130. — Gmel. S. N. 275. — SCHLEG. *Rev. Crit.* II, *Ti. de l'Esp.* pl. III, F. vol. N. Lef. Vog. pl. II and IV. — NAUM. *Vog.* pl. exxci. *Hirundinaria gyrfalco*, SCHLEG. *Bonap. Rev. Zool.* 1854, 545. — NEWTON, *Ootheca Wolleyana*, I, 87, pl. c. *F. gyrfalco* = *gyrfalco*, WOLLEY. *Falco gyrfalco* = *gyrfalco*, SCHLEG. *Mus. Pays-Bas*, 1862, 12. *F. leucodactylus*, var. γ, BLAS.

Wing, 13.00–14.50; tail, 9.30; culmen, .98; tarsus, 2.50; middle toe, 1.92.

secondaries without distinct spots on the outer webs. Lower tail-coverts immaculate.

Wing, 13.65–16.00; tail, 8.40–9.50; culmen, .85–1.00; tarsus, 1.95–2.15; middle toe, 1.85–1.95. Top of the head white, with narrow streaks of dark brown. *Hab.* Central and Eastern Europe, Western Asia, and adjoining portions of Africa . . . . var. *lanarius*.<sup>1</sup>

b. Outer webs of tail-feathers without distinct light spots, or without any at all; outer webs of primaries with no trace of spots; secondaries with light spots on outer webs. Lower tail-coverts sparsely spotted.

Wing, 12.00–14.25; tail, 7.60–9.00; culmen, .75–.90; tarsus, 2.15–2.40; middle toe, 1.70–2.00. Top of head brown, with narrow black streaks. *Adult.* Above with obscure transverse spots of bluish.

*Young.* Above with feathers bordered with rusty . . . . var. *polyagrus*.

Wing, 11.50; tail, 6.60; culmen, .70; tarsus, 1.90; middle toe, 1.65. Above uniform dark brown, with a faint plumbeous cast, the feathers without trace of light or rusty edges; outer web of tail-feathers without trace of light spots. *Hab.* Mexico . . . . var. *mexicanus*.<sup>2</sup>

Wing, 13.60–14.30; tail, 8.25–9.00; culmen, .80–.87; tarsus, 1.85–1.90; middle toe, 1.85–1.90. Colors similar to the last; entire auriculars white; mustache narrow and conspicuous. *Hab.* Southern Asia.

var. *jugger*.<sup>3</sup>

The only point of difference in the external anatomy between the Lanner Falcons and Gerfalcons consists in the different degree of feathering on the upper part of the tarsus; this is much denser and extends farther down and more around the posterior face in the Gerfalcons, but they, being inhabitants of a very northern latitude, need this protection against the rigor of the climate. These slight specific differences are illustrated by the figures on page 1430. The same difference is observable in many birds whose habitat extends through a great range of latitude, as, for instance, the *Pediacetes phasianellus*, the northern race of which has the feathers covering the base of the toes so long as to reach beyond the claws and nearly conceal them, while in the southern form (var. *columbianus*) the toes are almost completely naked.

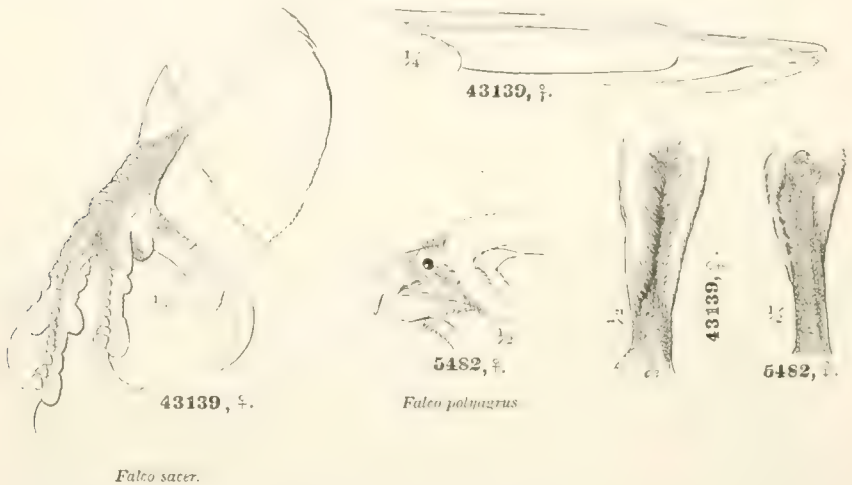
My determination of the number and character of the geographical races of *F. gyrfalco* is the result of a very careful critical examination of over sixty

<sup>1</sup> *Falco lanarius*, var. *lanarius* (SCHLEGEL). *Falco lanarius*, SCHLEG. Krit. Ueb. II, et 11. — IR. Tr. Fauc. 6; Mus. Pays-Bas, *Falcones* 14; Abh. Zool. 16; Rev. 1844, 2; Naum. 1855, 252; Ibis, 1859, 86. — BREE, B. Eur. I, 1859, 37 (plate of adult ♀). — TRISTRAM, Ibis, 284. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 19, No. 171. — PELZ. Ueb. der Geier und Falk. II, 1863, 20. *Falco lanarius* a. SCHLEG. Tr. Fauc. 23. *Genus lanarius*, SCHLEG. — BONAP. Rev. 1854, 535. *Falco feddeggii*, SCHLEG. Abh. Zool. 3–6.

<sup>2</sup> *Falco lanarius*, var. *mexicanus* (LICHT.). *Falco mexicanus*, "LICHT. Mus. Berol." — SCHLEG. Abh. Zool. 1841, 15. — SCHLEG. *Falcones*, Mus. Pays-Bas, 1862, 18. — PELZ. Neb. der Geier und Falk. II, 1863, 19. " *Falco sublanarius*, NATTERER." — PELZ. Ueb. der Geier und Falk. II, 1863, 19.

<sup>3</sup> *Falco lanarius*, var. *jugger* (GRAY). *Falco jugger*, GRAY, Hardw. Ill. Ind. Zool. II, pl. xxvi, 1832. — BONAP. Consp. 24. — GOULD, B. Asia, pl. i. — JERDON, B. India, 30. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. 1855, 79, No. 129. — SCHLEG. Abh. pl. xv; Mus. Pays-Bas, I, 17. *Falco jugger*, JERD. Aladr. Journ. X, p. 80; Ill. Ind. Orn. pl. xiv. — BLYTH, Journ. Ass. Soc. Bengal, XI, 104. *Falco thermophilus*, HODGS. Zool. Misc. 1844, 81. *Falco lanarius* t BLYTH, J. As. Soc. Beng. XIX, 318.

specimens, aided by the important conclusions of Mr. Hancock (*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 2d ser., XIII, 110; London, 1834), Schlegel (*Falcons*, Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle des Pays-Bas, 1862), Pelzeln (*Uebersicht der Geier und Falken der Kaiserlichen ornithologischen Sammlung*, April, 1863), and Alfred Newton (*History of British Birds*, revised ed., part 1, June, 1871, pp. 36-52, and *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Philadelphia*, July, 1871, pp. 94, 95), in their important papers bearing upon this subject, which, though they each express the peculiar individual views of the writer, together clear up pretty satisfactorily the problem of the number, character, and habitats of the several races, as well as the different phases of variation to which each is subject.



In studying the *F. lanarius*, I have experienced most discouraging difficulties from the want of sufficient series of the Old World races, and from the unsatisfactory character of most descriptions and figures of them, besides being much perplexed by the confusion of their synonymy by different authors. In consequence of this, my diagnoses of the four races of which alone I have seen examples may be very unsatisfactory as regards the characters by which they may be most readily distinguished. Having seen the adult of only a single one of these four races, I am therefore compelled to base my differential characters upon the immature stages.

In addition to the four races of *F. lanarius* characterized above, there are several geographical forms belonging to the Old World, chiefly intertropical Asia and Africa. These are the var. *babylonicus*, ScL and Irby, (Gray's Hand List, I, p. 20, No. 173,) of Southeastern Europe and Western Asia; var. *barbarus*, L. (Gray's Hand List, p. 20, No. 174), of Northern Africa; and var. *tanypterus*, Licht. (Gray's Hand List, No. 175), of both the preceding regions, which Mr. Gurney writes me "is simply the intertropical race of *F. lanarius*, from which it only differs in being of a darker shade throughout." The *F.*

saker, Schleg. (Gray's Hand List, No. 176), seems, to judge from the descriptions and figures which I have seen, to be also merely a form of the same species, but I have seen no specimens of it.

## **Falco (Hierofalco) gyrfalco, LINN.**

Var. **candicans**, GMELIN

### **WHITE GERFALCON.**

*Accipiter falco freti hudsonis*, BRIS. ORN. I, 356, 1763. *A. gyrfalco*, BRISS. ORN. I, 370, pl. xxx, f. 2, 1763. *Falco rusticolus*, FABR. FAUL. GREN. p. 55, 1780. — LATH. SYN. Supp. I, 15, 1781. *F. candicans*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 275, 1788. — DAUD. Tr. ORN. II, 101, 1800. — BENICK, Isis, 1824, 882. — SCHLEG. Krit. Übers. p. 1, 1844. — BONAP. Rev. Zool. 1850, 484; Consp. Av. p. 33. — CASSIN, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. 1855, 278; Birds N. Am. 1858, 13. — STRICKL. ORN. SYN. I, 77, 1855. — BLASIUS, Cab. Jour. 1862, 43 (thinks all boreal ones same in Europe and America). — ELLIOT, Birds N. Am. pl. xii. *Hierofalco candicans*, CUV. Reg. An. ed. 1, I, 312, 1817; ed. 2, I, 323, 1829. — LESS. Man. ORN. I, 80, 1828; Tr. ORN. p. 97, pl. xvi, p. 2. — GRAY, Hand List I, 18, 1869. *Falco islandicus*, LATH. Ind. ORN. p. 32, 1790; Syn. I, 71, A, B; Gen. Hist. I, 72, A, 1821. — STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. ii, p. 39, 1826. — GOULD, B. EUR. pl. xix. — AUD. Birds Am. 1831, pl. cclxvi. *F. buteo*  $\beta$ , LATH. Ind. ORN. p. 24, 1790; Gen. Hist. I, 80, A. *F. lagopus*,  $\beta$ , LATH. Ind. ORN. p. 19, 1790; Syn. Supp. I, 36; Gen. Hist. I, 68, A. *F. grenlandicus*, DAUD. Tr. ORN. II, 157, 1800. *Hierofalco grenlandicus*, BREHM. Voy. Deutsch, I, 16, 1831. *F. gyrfalco*, BONAP. List, p. 4, 1838.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult* (♀, 18,577, Greenland; Univ. Zool. Mus. Copenhagen). Ground-color entirely pure white; whole upper surface (posterior to the nape) with transverse crescentic bars of dark plumbeous-brown, generally about two on each feather, the first concealed by the feather which overlaps. Primaries crossed at regular intervals with quadrate spots of the same tint, these becoming fused toward ends of quills, forming a terminal dusky space of two or three inches in extent; tips of all the quills narrowly white; the black bars do not extend quite to the primary coverts, and decrease both in extent and regularity toward the base. Middle tail-feathers crossed with seven or eight imperfect bars of dusky, the shafts of the feathers blackish; rest of tail immaculate, the shafts pure white. Nape with a very few fine shaft-streaks of dusky. Whole lower surface of body and wing utterly immaculate. Wing-formula, 2-3-1. Wing, 16.50; tail, 9.00; culmen, 1.05; tarsus, 2.10-1.35; middle toe, 2.20; inner, 1.50; outer, 1.50; posterior, 1.00.

(No. 56,152, ♀, Greenland; Schlüter Collection.) Head above, occiput, nape, and upper half of ear-coverts, with sparse shaft-streaks of black, these most numerous on the latter region; primaries barred to the coverts. Tail entirely crossed by eleven plumbeous bars. Bars above clearer plumbeous. The snowy-white beneath is relieved by a few minute variable flecks of dusky upon the lower part of the abdomen, becoming larger as they approach the sides. Wing-formula, 2-3-1. Wing, 16.70; tail, 9.30.

*Juv. transition stage?* (♂, 56,047, "Hoher Norden"; Schlüter Collection). Markings above quite different from those of the two preceding; each feather has a large central longitudinal sagittate spot of dusky, leaving only the borders (of the exposed portion) white; on the primaries the dusky is almost confined to the terminal portion; the rump and upper tail-coverts have each feathers with a medial longitudinal stripe of dusky. The tail is immaculate, but the shafts of the middle feathers are dusky. The neck, breast, ab-



domen, and sides have numerous lanceolate marks of dusky, one near the end of each feather. The lining of the wing, even, has a few narrow streaks. Wing, 14.75; tail, 9.40.

No. 56,049 (♀, Greenland, Schl. Coll.) is similar in pattern of markings, but above the dusky is more extended, forming the predominating color; the rump, etc., has broad sagittate spots instead of narrow stripes; the primaries are barred to the coverts; the tail is crossed by about ten continuous bands of dusky. Beneath the lanceolate spots or streaks cover the whole surface, except the anal region, lower tail-coverts, and throat. On the lining of the wing the streaks are less sparse than in the preceding, though they are by no means numerous. Wing, 15.75; tail, 9.50.

*Juv. first plumage* (♀, 56,053, Greenland; Schlüter Coll.). All the markings are longitudinal, instead of directly the reverse. The upper parts have longitudinal tear-shaped



*Falco canadensis.*

stripes, a medial one on each feather; they are sparse, however, on the wings; the rump has narrow shaft-lines of dusky. The tail and upper coverts are immaculate, but the shafts of all the feathers are nearly pure black. The bars on the primaries are found only immediately next the dusky terminal space. The streaks beneath are not very numerous, and are found only on the breast, upper part of abdomen, and on the sides; the nape and sides of the neck are, however, thickly streaked.

(No. 17,966, ♀, Moose Factory, Hudson Bay Territory.) In character of markings resembling the last, but the stripes are fainter and narrower; they are also less numerous. On the under parts they are wanting. Unfortunately, the tail of this specimen, which is the only North American one in the collection, is missing.

In all specimens the anal region and lower tail-coverts are immaculate.

HAB. Greenland, and continent of North America, north of Hudson Bay (breeding in latter region). Of irregular occurrence in winter throughout the circumpolar regions; Ural Mountains (EVERSMAN); Behring's Strait (BANNISTER).

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 7; Boston Society, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 3; New York Museum, 6; collection of R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 19.

## Measurements.

	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	14.40 - 14.75	9.70 - .	.90 - .	2.15 - 2.45	1.95 - 2.00	3
♀	15.75 - 16.25	10.00 - 11.00	.98 - 1.00	2.20 - 2.50	2.05 - 2.15	6

Var. *islandicus*, SABINE

## ICELAND GERFALCON.

*Accipiter fulco islandicus*, BRISS. OUL. I, 336, 1763. *Falco islandicus*, SAB. Linn. Trans. XII, 528, 1818. — TEMM. Man. Orn. pt. x; 17, pt. iii, p. 9; Tab. Meth. p. 2, 1836. — FABER, Prod. Island. Orn. 1822, p. 2; Isis, 1827, 62. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 27, 1831. — HOY, Mag. Nat. Hist. Ser. 1, VI, 107. — HANCOCK, Ann. Nat. Hist. II, 247; Rev. Zool. 1839, 123. — BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 24. — STRICKL. OUL. SYM. I, 77, 1855. — CASSIN, Birds N. Am. 1858, 13. *Hierofalco islandicus*, GRAY, Gen. B. p. 3 (ed. 2, p. 4), 1844; Hand List, I, 18, 1869. *Falco candicans islandicus*, SCHLEG. Krit. übers, p. 1, 1844. *Falco lanarius*, FABER, Isis, 1827, 68. *Falco gyrfalco*, KEYSERLING & BLASIUS, Wirbelth. Eur. p. 135, 1840.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, Iceland; No. 12, Coll. Geo. N. Lawrence). Ground-color of the plumage dull white, gradually becoming somewhat bluish posteriorly, this color especially noticeable on the tail. Whole upper parts crossed with broad transverse bands of dark plumbeous, these bands continuous, and more than twice as wide as the pale ones, except on the upper tail-coverts and tail, where the bands of the two colors are more regularly defined and about equal; in addition to the transverse bands, the feathers anteriorly have narrow borders of white. Tail with the dark bands twelve in number; the terminal pale band is purer white than the others. The dusky plumbeous prevails on the primaries, and is unvariegated beyond the middle portion; the anterior half, however, is marked with quadrate ragged spots, of a slightly yellowish-white; all are margined terminally with purer white. Each feather of the head and neck with a narrow medial streak of dusky, but the general aspect abruptly lighter than the back; the streaks are more condensed along the upper and terminal portion of the ear-coverts. Jugulum and breast with a medial narrow streak on each feather; abdomen with more elliptical streaks; sides with circular and cordate spots, and flanks and tibiae with transverse spots; lower tail-coverts with narrow shaft-streaks of dusky. Lining of the wing with sparse narrow streaks of dusky; under surface of primaries with white prevailing, this, however, crossed by narrow bars of dusky, these numbering about sixteen on the longest. Wing-formula, 2-3-1. Wing, 14.60; tail, 7.80; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.30; middle toe, 2.00.

*Juv.* (No. 20,344, Iceland). Ground-color of head, neck, and lower parts, white. Upper surface grayish umber-brown, becoming paler and more grayish on the tail; each feather above sharply bordered (both webs, all round) with dull white, producing a somewhat squamate appearance; in places, a few obsolete hidden spots of yellowish-white. Tail ashy-drab (feathers somewhat paler along edges), crossed with about eleven

transverse series of spots of ochraceous or creamy white; these very obsolete on middle feathers, and sharply defined only on inner webs; the last is terminal. Primaries plain brown, somewhat darker than the back, and becoming insensibly darker terminally; skirted with white, and somewhat mottled or irregularly spotted toward their bases with yellowish-white. Head and neck, each feather, with a medial streak of dusky, but white the prevailing aspect; these streaks condensed and somewhat suffused along upper border of ear-coverts, and from the lores along cheeks, forming an obsolete "moustache"; every feather beneath (including lining of wings) with a medial broad stripe of clear plumbeous vandyke-brown, the shaft pure black; under surface of primaries with transverse spaces of white, these numbering thirteen on the longest. Wing-formula, 2-3, 1. Wing, 15.00; tail, 9.20.

HAB. Iceland and Southern Greenland. Northeastern North America in winter, straggling accidentally south to the New England States; Rhode Island (Museum, Cambridge); Norway, Maine "not uncommon" (Verrill); Massachusetts (Peabody & Jillson); Long Island (CAB., G. N. LAWRENCE).

No. 56,050, Greenland (Schlüter Collection), is moulting, and assuming the adult dress; the adult and young stages above described being nearly equally combined. No. 56,055, from Greenland, differs from the other young in-



*Falco islandicus.*

dividuals which I have seen in being considerably darker. The feathers of the upper surface are not bordered with whitish, but are merely paler on their edges, along which are specks of yellowish. On the head and neck

the dark streaks predominate, while the stripes below are very broad. It approaches quite nearly toward the young of var. *sacer*.

The only specimen of this race which I have seen from Continental North America, is a young individual, obtained during the winter of 1864-65, near Providence, R. I., taken by Mr. Newton Dexter, and now in the Cambridge Museum, where I had the pleasure of seeing it.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 5; Boston Society, 3; Philadelphia Academy, 9; Coll. G. N. Lawrence, 2; Muséum Comp. Zool., 1; New York Museum, 5. Total, 25.

## Measurements.

Ser.	Wing	Tail.	Culmen	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	14.35-14.75	8.80-10.00	.91-1.00	2.20-3.00	1.95-2.15	9
♀	16.25-16.50	10.00-11.50	1.00-1.05	2.30-2.70	2.00-2.25	10

Var. *sacer*, FORSTER.

## MacFARLANE'S GERFALCON.

*Falco sacer*, FORSTER, Phil. Trans. LXII, 1772, 383 and 423. — COUES, Birds of New England, 1868, 6. — BAIRD, Trans. Chicago Acad. Sc. I, ii, 271. — *Falco cinereus*, GILL. Syst. Nat. p. 267, 1789.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, 51,689, Yukon, mouth of Porcupine River; Strachan Jones). Whole upper surface with numerous transverse bands of brownish-plumbeous and ashy-white. Anteriorly the light bars are about half the width of the dark ones; posteriorly they gradually increase, the bands of the two colors being about of equal width on the upper tail-coverts and tail; with the increase of the lighter bars, they become more ashy, and, correspondingly, the darker ones are more plumbeous; on the rump there is but little contrast between the bands of the two, causing a prevalent bluish cast. The bands are everywhere continuous, the light ones being interrupted only by the black shaft; there are generally on the anterior portions about three light bars on each feather, the last always terminal. Tail tipped with white, and crossed with equal continuous bands of hoary-plumbeous and ashy-white; the latter eleven in number, and finely sprinkled with deeper ash. Primaries brownish-plumbeous, plain past the middle portion, but on the anterior half with quadrate spots of creamy white on the outer web. Head above brownish-plumbeous, this prevailing; but along the median line the feathers are edged with buffy white; forehead dull white, this continuing back in a streaked superciliary stripe to the occiput; cheeks very thinly marked with fine streaks of dusky, this prevailing along the upper border of the ear-coverts; a deeper dusky suffusion beneath the anterior angle of the eye. Lower surface pure white; chin and throat, only, immaculate; jugulum with very sparse, narrow longitudinal streaks of blackish; sides with scattered cordate or nearly circular spots, these larger and transverse on the flanks and tibiae; abdomen with scattered minute elliptical spots; lower tail-coverts with minute irregular sagittate or transverse spots of dusky. Under surface of the wing white; each feather of the lining with a medial tear-shaped streak of dusky; primaries crossed with narrow bars of dusky, fifteen in number on the longest. Wing-formula, 2-3-4-1-5. Wing, 13.50; tail, 8.60; culmen, .90; tarsus, 2.15; middle toe, 1.87.

♀ (43,139, Fort Anderson, May 24, 1864, "♀ and two eggs": R. MacFarlane).



Generally similar to the male. Head above conspicuously streaked, but the dusky prevailing. Above the transverse bands are less regular and continuous, anteriorly the plumbeous largely prevailing; posterior portions, however, as in the male, but on the rump the bands are more distinct. Beneath, the markings are more numerous, larger, and broader; those on the jugulum linear; those of the abdomen medially elliptical; laterally they are transversely cordate, and on the flanks in form of broad transverse spots, or broad bars; on the tibiae and lower tail-coverts they form regular transverse bars, — on the latter, quite distant. Wing-formula,  $2-3-4, 1$ . Wing, 15.50; tail, 9.50; tarsus, 2.15 and .80; middle toe, 1.95.

*Juv.* (♂, 55,400, Alaska, Nulato, February 10, 1868; W. H. Dall). Above plumbeous-umber, precisely as in young of *islandicus*, but on the rump having a decided ashy cast. No white edges to the feathers, as in *islandicus*, but, instead, numerous irregular transverse spots or obsolete ragged bars of cream-color or pale ochraceous-buff; the whole upper surface is quite thickly variegated with these irregular markings. Tail crossed with thirteen narrow bands of creamy-white, these so thickly mottled with dusky on the outer webs as to be obscure, but on inner webs they are regular and sharply defined; the last is terminal. Primaries plain dusky, skirted obscurely with paler, and marked toward bases with obsolete mottled spots of cream-color. Head streaked with dusky and creamy-white, the former predominating on upper surface, along upper edge of ear-coverts, and across the cheeks, on the latter forming a mustache; the white prevails over the ear-coverts in a broad supra-oral stripe, and on the forehead and lores. Beneath, soft dull white; chin and upper part of throat, only, immaculate; each feather with a broad medial stripe of clear dark plumbeous-brown, on the flanks and tibiae prevailing, the whitish assuming the form of roundish spots; lining of the wing similarly marked; prevailing aspect of under surface of primaries white, crossed with narrow bars of ashy, fifteen in number on the longest. Wing-formula,  $2, 3-1=4$ . Wing, 14.00; tail, 8.40.

*HAB.* Interior regions of Arctic America; Anderson River, McKenzie, Yukon, and Severn River regions. Breeding abundantly in the former district, whence numerous specimens of skins and eggs have been received by the Smithsonian Institution.

In the young specimen described, there are one or two new feathers appearing on the rump and upper tail-coverts, precisely as in the blue plumage, and proving conclusively their relationship. The species is as different from the Iceland bird in the young stage as in the mature. The most readily apparent differences are, lack of sharp white edges of feathers above, and in their stead numerous ragged transverse spots of yellowish: dark aspect of head above, etc.

Specimens vary considerably in the shades of color and distribution of the markings, but the types of the above descriptions are the lightest of the series. The darkest example is No. 43,144½ ("♀ and eggs"), Fort Anderson, May 22, 1864. In this the whole head and neck (except underneath) are continuous blackish-plumbeous, only the middle of the auriculars being faintly streaked; the back is nearly plain dusky, and even on the wings the bars are very obscure and much reduced in width. The rump is plain ashy-blue, the darker bars being nearly obsolete. The longitudinal markings on the pectoral region are enlarged into conspicuous stripes, while on the sides and flanks the transverse bars form heavy spots. The transverse bars on the tibiae are ashy-blue; those on the crissum clear plumbeous, and regularly transverse. Wing, 15.75; tail, 9.30. Upon comparing this specimen with

the figures of a pair of var *gyrfalco*, by Wolf, in Newton's Ootheca Wolleyana, I can discover no difference at all; thus it would seem that our bird occasionally closely approaches in tints and markings this race of Continental Europe, of which I have seen only one immature example, and no adults.

I cannot agree with Mr. Newton in considering the Gerfalcons of the interior of Arctic America as identical with the Iceland form, though that distinguished ornithologist considers them so in his paper in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy for July, 1871, basing his conclusion upon the specimens from which the above descriptions were taken, which had been sent over to England for comparison. I have never yet seen a specimen of *islandicus* which could not be distinguished, by the characters given in my synopsis, from these examples, while they can be separated from that race by the characters which Mr. Newton himself gives, in his diagnostic table in the paper above cited, for distinguishing the adults of *islandicus* and *gyrfalco*.

The var. *sacer* is evidently separable from both *islandicus* and *gyrfalco*, and about as much related to one as to the other; combining the size and proportions of the former with the colors of the latter, while in the wide amount of individual variation of plumage its lighter extreme approaches one, while its darkest phase approximates as closely to the average plumage of the other.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 6.

## Measurements.

Sex	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen	Tarsus.	Middle Toe	Specimens
♂	13.35-14.25	8.50-9.00	.86-.93	2.15-2.40	1.80-1.95	3
♀	15.50-16.00	10.00-10.50	1.00-	2.35-2.55	2.00-2.15	3

Var. *labradoræ*. A. C. S. P.

## BLACK GERFALCON.

*Falco labradoræ*, AUD. B. Am. pl. exevi, 1831.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♀ breeding plumage? 30,375, Rigolet, Labrador; Mr. Conolly). Ground-color of the plumage uniform, very deep, clear, dark plumbeous-brown, continuously uniform above; larger scapulars, secondaries, secondary coverts, and primaries more dilute along edges, however, the tint palest and broadest terminally. Tail perfectly uniform, except at the end; the tip being narrowly whitish, and about half an inch anterior to this, a transverse series of hidden irregular transverse creamy-white spots. The head (except beneath) is unvariegated. Beneath, the dark tint inclines more to blackish clove-brown, more dilute on the tibia; feathers edged laterally with white, this prevailing on the throat, but everywhere else far less than the dusky in amount; on the tibia and lower tail-coverts the white is in the form of irregular spots. Anal region unvariegated; lining of the wing with circular spots of white along the outer webs of the feathers. Under surface of primaries with plumbeous prevalent, but this crossed with

mottlings of whitish, forming transverse bars; but terminally and basally they become confused or lost. Wing-formula, 2, 3-1, 4. Wing, 16.20; tail, 9.50; tarsus, 2.00-.90; middle toe, 2.05; inner, 1.50; outer, 1.50; posterior, .90.

HAB. Labrador; south and westward in winter, and shores of Hudson Bay.

Nos. 17,063 ♀, Quebec, W. Cooper and 34,960 ♀, Fort Nescopce, Labrador differ from the preceding in having ten small narrow transverse spots of reddish-white on the tail-feathers, forming as many indistinct bands; these spots touch neither the shaft nor the edge of the feather, and are almost concealed, unless the tail is spread; on the latter specimen they are very obsolete, the subterminal one only being distinct, as in the specimen selected for description. The upper tail-coverts also show faintly indicated spots, and the former specimen has the wing-coverts with very narrow irregular spots on the edge of the feathers. In this specimen there is also one feather in the scapulars which has broader white edges; it also has the white below about equal to the black in amount; the anal region, however, in all, is unvaried blackish, and the transverse oblique bands on the lower tail-coverts are a constant feature.

No. 41,185 (♀, Fort Nescopce, Labrador; H. Conolly) is the darkest of all. In this the blackish plumbeous-brown is uniform over the whole surface; even the throat is unvariegated. Abdomen with a few of the feathers edged with white, and sides with a few small circular spots of the same; lower tail-coverts transversely spotted with white; tibiæ scarcely variegated, showing only narrow indistinct whitish edges. Mottling on inner webs of primaries reduced so as to be scarcely visible. Tail with the usual number (two) of irregular whitish bars, — one terminal, the other near the end.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 2; Boston Society, 1. Total, 3.

#### Measurements.

Sex	Wing	Tail	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	14.50 - .	9.00 - .	.90 - .	2.12 - .	1.90 - .	1
♀	15.50 - 15.75	9.50 - 10.00	1.00 - 1.05	2.00 - 2.35	2.00 - 2.10	2

HABITS. In treating of the general habits of the Gerfalcons of North America it will not be necessary, nor will it be possible, to give the distinctive peculiarities belonging to the several forms in which these Falcons occur. Whether, on account of their variations of plumage, we consider them as races or as specifically distinct, does not affect their history in this respect. There is no good reason for presuming that they have any very noticeable variations as to any of their habits, although certain writers claim for some of them certain well-marked peculiarities of character.

In the matter of geographical distribution they are all, for the most part, rarely seen, even in midwinter, south of the 50th parallel of north latitude, and are found in the summer as far north as the Arctic Ocean. The

Gerfalcon of the McKenzie River region, occurring from the Slave Lake to Anderson River and the Yukon, is the form elsewhere given as the *F. saccr*. Along our eastern coast region occurs another form, the *F. labradora*, which is the bird met with in Labrador, and described by Mr. Audubon. The *F. candicans* or *grænlandicus* is a form peculiar to Greenland, visiting also, in the winter, the Hudson's Bay region; while the *F. islandicus*, a well-known European form, occurs in Greenland also, and occasionally farther south.

Holböll, in his account of the birds of Greenland (Isis, 1845), appears to recognize but one species of Gerfalcon as occurring there, to which he gives the name of *islandicus*. This is, he states, the most abundant Falcon in Greenland, and is equally common in the northern and in the southern parts. Their great variations in color he regarded as indicative of differences in ages to only a very limited extent, and as in no respect specific. These differences in color were found among both nestlings and breeding birds, white and dark birds being found together in both circumstances. The white birds were more numerous in Northern Greenland, and the dark ones oftener seen in the southern portion.

He found the young birds moulting throughout the winter. On the 4th of January, 1840, he shot a young female that showed signs of moulting about the head and neck, with a striped white appearance from the sprouting feathers. The ovaries were quite well developed, and it was evident that the birds of this species breed in the first season after their birth. Holböll adds that they breed in January, that their eggs are of nearly the same color as those of the Ptarmigan, but are twice as large. They nest usually in inaccessible cliffs. They prey chiefly upon water-fowl and Ptarmigans, and usually build near "bird rocks," from which they obtain the young without much trouble. He mentions having once seen one with a young *Larus tridactylus* in each foot, and another with two *Tringa maritima* carried in the same manner. Its rapidity of flight Holböll did not regard as very great. He had for years kept pigeons, and only lost two young birds, which were seized when at rest. Almost every day, especially in October and November, these Falcons would chase the old Pigeons unsuccessfully, and were often shot when they followed them too near the house. They were not particularly shy, and were occasionally decoyed and killed by throwing a dead bird towards them.

During the summer they are most numerous along the bays, especially where there are "bird-rocks" near. In September they go southerly along the coast, and also in October and November. At this time they are not rare, and approach the houses of the Danes, near which they are often seen fighting with the Ravens. Their spring migrations are not so regular as they are in the autumn, or perhaps at this time they do not approach the houses so frequently. When they are near the settlements, it is noticed that in the morning they fly towards the south, and in the evening towards the north.

Richardson speaks of the Gerfalcon as a constant resident in the Hudson



Bay territory, where it is known as the Speckled Partridge-Hawk, and also as the Winterer. Its southern limit he could not give, but he never met with it south of  $52^{\circ}$ . He traced it northward to the coast of the Arctic Sea, and probably to the most northern Georgian islands. He cites Captain Sabine as authority for its occurring as far north as latitude  $74^{\circ}$  on the west coast of Greenland. Richardson often met with it during his journeys over the Barren Grounds, where its habitual prey was the Ptarmigan, and where it also destroyed Plover, Ducks, and Geese. He relates that in the middle of June, 1821, a pair of these birds attacked him as he was climbing to the vicinity of their nest, which was built on a lofty precipice on the borders of Point Lake, in latitude  $65^{\circ} 30'$ . The bird flew in circles, uttering loud and harsh screams, stooping alternately with such velocity that their motions through the air produced a loud rushing noise. They struck their claws within an inch or two of his head. Keeping the barrel of his gun close to his cheek, and suddenly elevating its muzzle when they were in the act of striking, he found that they invariably rose above the obstacle with the rapidity of thought, showing equal power of motion. They bore considerable resemblance to the Snowy Owl, but their flight was much more rapid.

Mr. MacFarlane, in the memoranda of his collections in the neighborhood of Anderson River and Fort Anderson, furnishes notes of eighteen nests of the Gerfalcon obtained by him in that region. With only two exceptions, these were placed near the tops of pines, or other trees, at distances from the ground varying from ten to twenty-five feet. In some instances the nest was placed on the very top of the tree, in others on a lower limb against the trunk. They were composed of twigs and small branches, and lined with mosses, hay, deer's hair, feathers, and other substances. The parents were always very much excited whenever their nests were approached, making a great noise, and not unfrequently their loud screams drew attention to nests that would otherwise have escaped notice. In one instance a nest had been built on a ledge of rocks thirty miles northwest of Fort Anderson. It was composed of a few withered twigs, and lined with mosses and hay. It was found on the 27th of May, and contained two eggs nearly fresh, and two in a state of greater development. One nest, placed on a broad branch of a tree, near the trunk, was of considerable size. Another nest was on the ground, on the side of a steep and high hill. The earliest date of finding these nests is given as the 10th of May. The eggs then found were fresh. The ground at that time was still thickly covered with snow, and the weather was very cold. In a nest found five days later the eggs contained partially developed embryos. In nearly every instance the eggs seem to have been in different stages of development in the same nest. In some, young birds were in the same nest with eggs only partially developed, and in another an egg perfectly fresh was in the same nest with others nearly ready to hatch. A nest found July 3 contained young about two days old; another, on May 27, had eggs with large embryos; and one, on June 25, had young nearly ready to fly.

Mr. Donald Gunn claims that this Falcon is the only Hawk that is resident in the Arctic regions throughout the year. It is known to the Indians by the name of *Pepunesu*, and this name is applied to it because it passes the winter with them. It is a very powerful bird, and commits great havoc among the Partridges, so much so that in former times the Hudson Bay Company gave a reward of a quart of rum to every hunter who brought in the head of one of these Falcons. All the other Hawks are only summer visitors.

Mr. Bannister was informed by the residents of St. Michaels that a Hawk, presumed to be this species, is not unfrequent there, though he did not happen to meet with it. On his voyage home, on the 21st of October, 1866, when off the coast of Kamtschatka, north of Behring's Island, one alighted in the rigging of the ship, and continued with them for several hours.

Although very rare in any part of the United States, occasional individuals have been taken in different localities, and in one instance a pair was known to breed for several successive seasons in Vermont. This information I have from Mr. Clarence King, who, when a lad at school in the town of Dummerston, observed a pair nesting among some high cliffs, and informed me of the fact at the time of the occurrence. One of these birds is recorded by Mr. Lawrence as having been taken on Long Island in the winter of 1856.

Mr. Boardman gives it as occurring near Calais in winter, but very rare. Professor Verrill found them not uncommon in Oxford County, Me., where they were frequently seen during winter, flying about the extensive meadows near Norway; but they were very shy and watchful, and it was hardly possible to procure a specimen. It is very unusual in Eastern Massachusetts, and only very rarely and occasionally have specimens been taken. Mr. Jillson obtained a specimen, in 1840, at Seekonk. One was shot, in 1864, near Providence, R. I., by Mr. Newton Dexter.

Mr. Audubon relates that, August 6, 1833, his son, John W. Audubon, found a nest of this Falcon among some rocky cliffs near Bras d'Or, Labrador, containing four young birds ready to fly, two of which were procured. The nest was placed among the rocks, about fifty feet from their summit and more than a hundred from their base. It was inaccessible, but, having been examined from above, was seen to be empty. It was composed of sticks, sea-weeds, and mosses, was about two feet in diameter, and was almost flat. Its edges were strewn with the remains of their food, and beneath the nest was an accumulation of the wings of Ptarmigans, Mormons, *Uriæ*, etc., mingled with large pellets of fur, bones, and various substances.

Their flight is spoken of as similar to that of the Peregrine Falcon, but more elevated, majestic, and rapid. Their cries were also like those of that Falcon, being very loud, shrill, and piercing. Occasionally this bird was seen to alight on one of the high stakes placed on the shore. There it would stand, in the position of a Tern, for a few moments, and then would

pounce upon a Puffin, as the latter bird was standing at the entrance of its burrow, unaware of the approach of its enemy. The weight of the Puffin seemed to form no impediment to the Hawk in its flight.

The European Gerfalcons are said to seldom appear south of the 52d parallel of latitude, or north of 74°. They are nowhere numerous, and were formerly much sought for, and purchased, at immense prices, for purposes of falconry. Great differences were supposed to exist in regard to the habits and other peculiarities of the several races. The Iceland Falcons commanded the highest prices, and were regarded as a species quite distinct from the *F. gyrfalco*. The former was much the more valuable, both as more rare, and as a bird of higher courage and of a more rapid and bolder flight, and a bird that could, on that account, be "flown" successfully at larger game.

The Gerfalcons, in Europe, build on the rocky coasts of Norway and Iceland, and are said to defend their young with great courage and determination. They are comparatively rare in the British Islands, especially the more southern portions. Even in the Orkneys it is only an occasional visitor.

All the eggs of the several forms of Gerfalcon that I have seen present common characteristics, and do not differ from each other more than eggs known to belong to the same species of Hawk are frequently found to vary. One from Greenland, presumed to belong to the *candicans*, measures 2.37 inches in length by 1.71 in breadth. The predominant color of its markings is a deep reddish-brown, very generally and nearly equally diffused over its surface, concealing the ground-color, which is lighter and of a yellowish-brown shade.

An egg of the *islandicus*, from Iceland, has the same measurements, but is so slightly yet uniformly marked with light yellowish-brown as to seem to be of one color only, — a light brown, shaded with yellow.

An egg from Norway, of the form *gyrfalco*, is 2.42 inches in length, 1.71 in breadth, has a ground-color of a dirty yellowish-white, and is marked with spots, dottings, and confluent blotches of yellowish-brown, more so about the larger end.

The series of eggs of *Falco sacer* in the Smithsonian Collection exhibits the following range of variation in size, color, and markings: length, from 2.30 to 2.45 inches; breadth, 1.60 to 1.90 inches; ground-color usually a light reddish-ochre, varying to pinkish on the one hand, and to rufous on the other. They are usually sprinkled all over with small spots, which are sometimes not distinguishable from the ground-color when this is very deep, and again larger and quite conspicuous.

An egg of the variety *candicans*, from Greenland (No. 2,606, S. I.), measures 2.25 inches by 1.80. In color and in markings it is like the average eggs of variety *sacer*, namely, pale rufous, sprinkled over with a slightly deeper shade.

**Falco lanarius.**Var. *polyagrus*, CASSIN.**AMERICAN LANNER; PRAIRIE FALCON.**

*Falco polyagrus*, CASSIN, B. Cal. & Tex. 1853, 88. — *Id.* P. A. N. S. 1855, 277; B. N. Am. 1858, 12. — HEERM. Pacific R. Rep't, II, 1855, 31. — KENNERLY, P. R. R. III, 1856, 19. — COOP. & SUCKL. P. R. R. XII, 1860, 143. — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 7. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 85. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 323. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 20. *Falco lanarius*, var. *mexicanus*, RIDGWAY in COUES' Key, 1872.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, No. 59,063, Wahsatch Mountains, Utah, May 23, 1868: parent of eggs; L. E. Ricksecker). Above cinereous-drab, becoming gradually paler and more bluish posteriorly, barred, indistinctly, everywhere with a more dusky tint, the shafts of all the feathers blackish; anteriorly the darker shade predominates, while posteriorly the bluish prevails; on the anterior portions the light bars are much restricted in width, and of a more ochraceous tint. Tail plain, very pale ashy-drab, narrowly tipped with reddish-white, this changing to pale rusty on the middle pair; the concealed portion of the feathers outside the shaft show obsolete, or faint traces of, darker bars, which on the middle pair are apparently about eleven in number. On the inner webs the paler bars become broader than the darker ones, and incline to ochraceous in tint, the lateral feather being edged externally with this color. Primaries plain ashy-drab, with a hoary tinge, growing insensibly darker terminally, and with a slightly paler apical margin. Head and neck above, dark umber-brown, with conspicuous shaft-streaks of black. Lores, a broad superciliary stripe (somewhat interrupted above the eyes), white, finely and sparsely streaked, the two stripes confluent across the occiput; a broad heavy "mustache" from the lores and rictus downward and obliquely backwards, across the maxilla, and a wider postocular stripe, like the crown. Beneath continuous white, with a faint ochraceous tinge on the abdomen and crissum; abdomen and sides of the breast with a few scattered, small, ovate spots of vandyke-brown; sides transversely spotted with vandyke-brown, the spots coalesced into a broken patch on the flanks; outside of the tibiae with transverse spots of the same. Axillars plain, clear vandyke-brown, with a few nearly obsolete rusty specks near their ends; lining of the wing clear white, the feathers with central spaces of dusky-brown, which toward the edge become aggregated into a longitudinal patch; inner webs of the primaries with broad transverse spots of white, which reach nearly to the shaft; they are about thirteen in number on the longest quill. Feet yellow; base of the bill tinged with the same. Wing-formula, 2, 3 - 1, 4. Wing, 12.00; tail, 7.50; tarsus, 1.90; middle toe, 1.70; outer, 1.22; inner, 1.12; posterior, .77.

♀ (not adult? 18,258, Fort Buchanan, New Mexico; Dr. Irwin). Above continuous umber-drab, growing gradually lighter posteriorly, the tail being pale drab; no transverse bars (except a few concealed obsolete ones on back and secondaries), but all the feathers faintly bordered with paler rusty-brown, these edgings being on upper tail-coverts almost white. Tail tipped with creamy-white, and with many transverse spots or broad bars of the same on inner webs, outer feather irregularly skirted with the same, and all decidedly paler than the ground-color along their edges. Head as in the male, but forehead white, and superciliary stripe more continuous. Breast and abdomen with longitudinal lanceolate or cuneate streaks of dark vandyke-brown; patch of same on flanks more continuous than in the male; axillars unvariegated clear dark vandyke-brown; longest primary with eleven transverse spots of white; posterior outer face of tibiae with sagittate spots of dark brown. Wing-formula, 2, 3 - 1, 4. Wing, 14.25; tail, 8.00; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 2.00.



*J. v.* (♂, 32,207, Santa Fe, at the Platte River, July 19, 1848, C. S. M.Carthy). Above darker umber than the last, each feather distinctly bordered terminally with rusty-ochraceous. Beneath with a deeper cream-colored tinge, streaks blacker; flank-patch more conspicuous and uniform; axillars unvariegated dusky. Wing-formula, 2, 3-1=4. Wing, 13.25; tail, 7.25.

HAB. Western division of North America, eastward to Illinois; Oregon to Lower California, and Texas. Localities: Texas, San Antonio and Eagle Pass (DRESSER); Arizona (COVES).

The different stages of plumage are in this by no means so well defined as in other species, there being nearly the same general appearance in all. There is, also, very little variation in different specimens of the same age. No. 8,504, (♀, Dalles, Oregon; Dr. George Suckley) has the black markings on the sides of the breast more circular, and the vandyke-black of the axillars with a few circular white spots on the edges of the feathers. Wing, 14.50; tail, 8.40. Nos. 17,204 (♀, San José, Lower California; John Xantus, January, 1860) and 18,258 (♂? Fort Buchanan, N. M.) have the upper surface almost perfectly continuous grayish-drab, the first absolutely unvariegated by markings, though the feathers fade a little on edges. Beneath, the white is very pure; the streaks are numerous, sharply defined and longitudinal. Wing, 13.25; tail, 7.50 (17,204).

The American Lanner Falcon is so very closely related to the Lanners of Europe and Asia (var. *lanarius* and var. *jugger*) that it is very difficult to

indicate the differences which separate them. The two Old World forms above named are more unlike each other than they are from the two American races; the var. *jugger* differing from *mexicanus* apparently only in larger size; and the var. *lanarius*, more like *polyagrus* than it is like either *jugger* or *mexicanus*, differs from *polyagrus* mainly in the greater amount of white on the plumage, this imparting a lighter aspect to the pileum, and causing a greater development of the light spots on the outer webs of the primaries and rectrices.

The var. *polyagrus*, compared with var. *lanarius*, is much

darker, having, at all ages, the crown uniformly brown, with darker streaks, instead of having these streaks upon a white ground. The "mustache" is



*Falco polyagrus*

more distinct in the American bird, while in the European the bands on the tail are much more distinct, and the spots forming them are on the outer webs, as well as on the inner, instead of on the latter alone; the dark bars between the light spots are in the American bird much narrower and more numerous, and in the young the light ones come to the edge of the web, instead of being enclosed within the dark color. Two very young birds (i. e. in first perfect plumage) appear almost identical until closely examined, the chief differences being a lighter tint to the crown in the European, and heavier dark stripes on the breast, besides the peculiar character of the tail-spots, which are always distinctive. In shades of color, there is not the slightest difference.

I have seen no specimen of any of the Old World forms in the plumage corresponding to that transversely barred above, described here as the adult, though figures of the adult *lanarius* indicate a very similar plumage. The series of the latter race at my command is unfortunately limited to a very few immature specimens. One marked "ad." (56,051, Hungary; Schlüter Coll.) measures as follows: Wing, 14.50; tail, 8.00; culmen, .83; tarsus, 1.90; middle toe, 1.80. Its colors are as described in the synopsis (p. 1429) for the young bird.

The var. *mexicanus* and var. *jugger*, which are both much darker, and more uniform in the coloring of the upper parts, than var. *polyagrus*, are more nearly alike; in fact, the only tangible difference that I can find between a specimen of the former in the Museum of the Boston Society of Natural History (No. 1,438, ♂, Juv. Lafr. Collection; "Mexico") and two examples of the latter in the New York Museum, consist in the larger size of the var. *jugger* (see synopsis), besides its whiter cheeks and more isolated and distinct "mustache." A direct comparison of these two races may show other tangible points of distinction, or, on the contrary, may show even these slight distinguishing features to be inconstant. The former result is, however, most reasonably to be expected.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 9; Boston Society, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 4; Museum Comp. Zool. 1; G. N. Lawrence, 2; R. Ridgway, 5. Total, 23.

## Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	12.00 - .	7.60 - .	. - .75	. - 2.15	. - 1.70	6
♀	13.25 - 14.25	8.00 - 9.00	.85 - .90	2.05 - 2.40	1.85 - 2.00	12

HABITS. This is an exclusively western species, occurring from the valley of the Mississippi to the Pacific coast. Specimens have been obtained as far east as Illinois. Several others have been taken on the Upper Missouri and the Yellowstone Rivers, in Nebraska, at Fort Thorne, New Mexico, and on the Little Colorado River. A specimen was shot by Dr. Heer-

mann on the Farallones, on the California coast ; but Dr. Cooper thinks it rarely visits the coast border, though he several times saw, near San Diego, a bird which he supposed to belong to this species. At Martinez, in December, 1863, he succeeded in shooting one as it flew from its perch at the approach of the wagon in which he was riding.

It is said to extend its migrations in summer to the Upper Columbia, avoiding the densely forest-clad regions. Dr. Heermann saw a young unfledged individual at San Francisco, from which it may be inferred that a few may breed within the State.

The first individual of this species was taken by Dr. Townsend during his trip across the continent, in 1834. It was obtained among the mountainous regions of Oregon, near the sources of the Platte River. Mr. Cassin states that Dr. Heermann procured several specimens in the Sacramento Valley.

Mr. Cassin remarks that this species, except in its greatly superior size and strength, bears a very close resemblance to the well-known Juggler Falcon of India, a bird much used for the purposes of falconry.

Dr. Kennerly, who procured a single specimen of this species while his party was encamped on the Little Colorado, found it busily engaged in seeking its prey among the bushes that grew along the river-bank. It was shy, and was procured with difficulty.

Dr. Suckley speaks of this Hawk as not at all rare in Oregon. He procured a specimen of it at Fort Dalles, in the beginning of the winter of 1854-55, which had been killed in the act of carrying off a barn-yard fowl of about its own weight, and which it had just seized near the door of a dwelling-house, — an act demonstrative of a union of courage, ferocity, and strength inferior to none of its congeners.

Dr. Cooper characterizes this as one of the shyest of Hawks, as it is also one of the swiftest, flying with rapid flappings of the wings. It seems to prefer the borders of prairies, where it catches hares, quails, and even larger game.

Mr. Ridgway informs me that this Hawk was seen by him in Southern Illinois, near Mt. Carmel, September 27, 1871. It had been obtained once before within the limits of Illinois, but in the northwestern part of the State, at Rock Island, by I. Dickenson Sergeant, of Philadelphia, and presented by him to the Academy of Natural Science.

Its nest and eggs were taken in Utah by Mr. Ricksecker. I have no notes in regard to the former. A finely marked specimen of one of the eggs procured by him is in my cabinet. It measures 2.15 inches in length by 1.65 in breadth. It is of a somewhat less rounded-oval shape than are the eggs of the *anatum*. The ground-color is a rich cream, with a slightly pinkish tinge, and is beautifully marked with blotches of various sizes, shapes, and shades of a red-brown tinged with chestnut, and with occasional shadings of purplish. These are confluent about one end, which in the specimen before me chances to be the smaller one. It very closely resembles the eggs of the European *F. lanarius*.

An egg in the Smithsonian Collection (15,596), taken at Gilmer, Wyoming Territory, May 13, 1870, by Mr. H. R. Durkee, has a ground-color of pinkish-white, varying in two eggs to diluted vinaceous, thickly spotted and minutely freckled with a single shade of a purplish-rufous. In shape they are nearly elliptical, the smaller end being scarcely more pointed than the larger. They measure 2.27 by 1.60 to 1.65 inches. The nest was built on the edge of a cliff. Its eggs were also taken by Dr. Hayden while with Captain Reynolds, at Gros Vent Fork, June 8, 1860.

SUBGENUS **FALCO**, MEHRING.

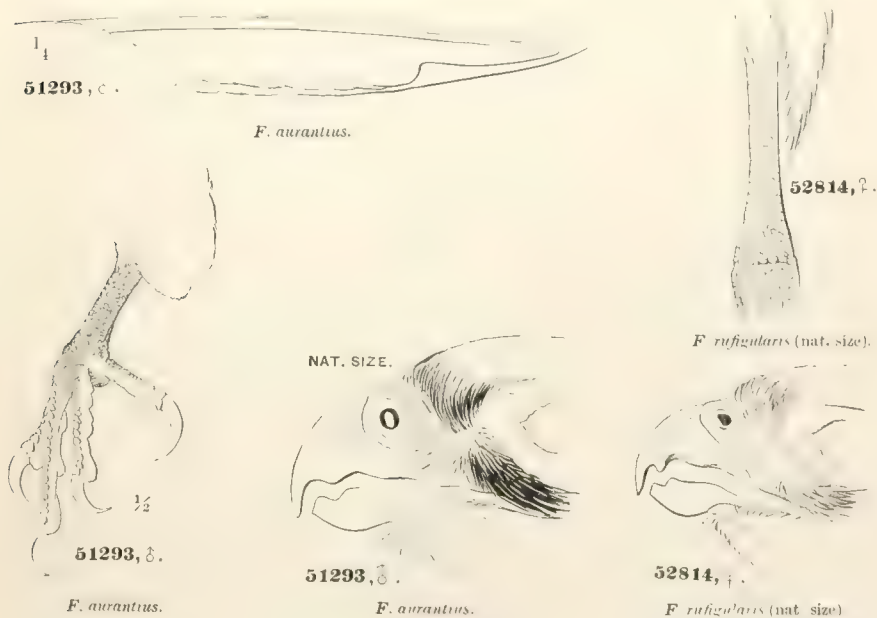
*Falco*, MEHRING, 1752. (Type, *Falco peregrinus*, GM. = *F. communis*, GM.)

*Rhynchodon*, NITZSCH, 1840. (In part only.)

*Echovax*, WEBB & BERTH., 1844. (Type, *Falco* — )

*Iethicrax*, KAUP, 1844. (Type, *Fulco frontalis*, DAUD.)

The following synopsis of the three American species of this subgenus may serve to distinguish them from each other, though only two of them (*F. aurantius* and *F. ruficularis*) are very closely related. The comparative



characters of the several geographical races of the other one (*F. communis*), which is cosmopolitan in its habitat, being included under the head of that species, may explain the reasons why they are separated from each other.



## Species and Races.

**A.** First and second quill equal and long; first with inner web elongated, second with inner web slightly sinuated. Young with longitudinal stripes on the lower parts. Adult and young sexes very different.

**1. *F. communis*.** Wing, 11.50–14.30; tail, 7.00–8.50; culmen, .72–.95; tarsus, 1.65–2.20; middle toe, 1.80–2.30.<sup>1</sup> Second quill longest; first shorter than, equal to, or longer than third. *Adult.* Above plumbeous, darker anteriorly, lighter and more bluish posteriorly; anteriorly plain, posteriorly with darker transverse bars, these growing more sharply defined towards the tail. Beneath ochraceous-white, varying in tint from nearly pure white to deep ochraceous, those portions posterior to the jugulum transversely barred, more or less, with blackish or dark plumbeous; anterior lower parts (from the breast forward) without transverse bars. *Young.* No transverse bars on the body, above or below. Above blackish-brown, varying to black, the feathers usually bordered terminally with ochraceous or rusty; forehead usually more or less washed with the same. Beneath ochraceous, varying in shade; the whole surface with longitudinal stripes of blackish. Inner webs of tail-feathers and primaries with numerous transverse elliptical spots of ochraceous. *Hab.* Cosmopolitan.

*a.* Young dark brown above, the feathers bordered with rusty or whitish. Beneath white or ochraceous, with narrow longitudinal stripes of dusky. Inner webs of tail-feathers with transverse bars.

Auriculars white, cutting off the black of the cheeks with a prominent "mustache."

Beneath pure white, the breast and middle of the abdomen without markings. Wing, 12.75; tail, 7.30; culmen, .80; tarsus, 2.00; middle toe, 1.80. *Hab.* Eastern Asia.

var. *orientalis*.<sup>2</sup>

Beneath pale ochraceous, the breast always with longitudinal dashes, or elliptical spots, of dusky; middle of abdomen barred. Wing, 11.50–14.30; tail, 7.00–8.50; culmen, .72–.95; tarsus, 1.65–2.20; middle toe, 1.80–2.30. *Hab.* Europe.

var. *caucasicus*.<sup>3</sup>

Beneath varying from deep ochraceous to nearly pure white, the breast never with distinct longitudinal or other spots, usually with none at all. Middle of abdomen barred, or not. Wing, 11.30–14.75; tail, 6.00–9.00; culmen, .75–1.00; tarsus, 1.60–2.10; middle toe, 1.75–2.20. *Hab.* America (entire continent)

var. *americanus*.

Auriculars black, nearly, or quite, as far down as the lower end of the "mustache."

Beneath varying from deep ochraceous to white, the breast streaked or not. Lower parts more uniformly and heavily

<sup>1</sup> Extremes of more than one hundred specimens measured.

<sup>2</sup> *Falco communis*, var. *orientalis* (GMELIN). *Falco aculeatus*, GMELIN, S. N. 1789, 264. — LATH. Ind. Orn. 22. — IE. Gen. Hist. I, 162. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 76. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 83. Two specimens examined, from Japan (Nat. Mus., 1; Philad. Acad., 1).

<sup>3</sup> *Falco communis*, var. *caucasicus* (GMELIN). *Falco caucasicus*, GMELIN, S. N. 1789, 270. — SCHLEG. Krit. übers. p. 11. — IE. Mus. Phys. Ber. 1862, *Falco*, 1. — PILZ. Ueb. der Gelf. und Falk. 1863, 23. *Falco peregrinus*, GMELIN, S. N. 1789, 272. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 81, et ALCOCK. Seventeen specimens of this race have been examined. They are distributed as follows: Nat. Mus., 5; Bost. Soc., 6; Philad. Acad., 4; Cambridge Mus., 2. Total, 17.

barred than in the other races. *Young* with narrower streaks beneath. Wing, 11.15–12.60; tail, 6.11–8.00; culmen, .81–.90; tarsus, 1.60–2.05; middle toe, 1.75–2.15. *Hab.* Australia. . . . . var. *melanopygia*.<sup>1</sup>

*b.* *Young* unvariegated brownish-black above. Beneath brownish-black, faintly streaked with white, or nearly unvariegated. Inner webs of tail-feathers without transverse bars.

Wing, 14.90–15.09; tail, 8.50; culmen, .95–1.00; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 2.15–2.21. *Hab.* Northwest coast of North America, from Oregon to Sitka . . . . . var. *pealei*.

**B.** Second quill longest; first with inner web emarginated, the second with inner web not sinuated. *Young* without longitudinal stripes on lower parts. Adult and young stages hardly appreciably different.

Above plumbeous or black; beneath black from the jugulum to the tibiæ, with transverse bars of white, ochraceous, or rufous; throat and jugulum white, white and rufous, or wholly ochraceous, with a semicircular outline posteriorly; tibiæ, anal region, and crissum uniform deep rufous, or spotted with black on an ochraceous or a white and rufous ground. *Adult.* Plumbeous above, the feathers darker centrally, and with obscure darker bars posteriorly; jugulum immaculate. *Young.* Black above, the feathers bordered terminally with rusty, or else dark plumbeous without transverse bars; jugulum with longitudinal streaks.

2. **F. aurantius.**<sup>2</sup> Wing, 9.50–12.00; tail, 5.40–6.25; culmen, .96;

<sup>1</sup> *Falco commutatus*, var. *melanopygia* (GOULD). *Falco commutatus*, LATH. New S. Wales Dr. II, No. 4. *Falco peregrinus*, VIG. LINN. Trans. XV, p. 183. — IB. Isis, 1830, 260. — BONAP. Consp. 23, No. 2. *Falco melanopygia*, GOULD, P. Z. S. pt. 5, 1837, 139. — IB. Synop. B. Austr. pt. 3, pl. xl, fig. 2; Birds of Austr. I, pl. 8; Intr. B. Austr. 19. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 6. — IB. List. B. Brit. Mus. 51. — BONAP. Rev. Zool. 1850, 484. — KAUP, Monog. Falc. in Jardine's Contr. Orn. 1850, 56. — STURT, Exp. Austr. App. 14. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 84. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 19, No. 167. *Falco macropus*, SWAINS. An. Menag. 1838, 341. Eight specimens examined, including the types of GOULD's figures and descriptions in the Birds of Australia.

<sup>2</sup> *Falco aurantius*, GMEL. (Rufous-bellied Falcon). *Falco aurantius*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 283, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 48, 1790, Gen. Hist. I, 289. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 130. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 194. — STEPH. Zool. XIII, ii, 40. — CUV. Reg. An. (ed. 2), I, 322. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 91. BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 25. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 89, 1855. *Hypotriorchis aurantius*, KAUP, Ueb. Falk. Mus. Senck. p. 257, 1845. *Bidens aurantius*, SPIX, Av. Bras. I, 17, 1824. *Falco deiroleucus*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 348, 1836. — LESS. Man. Orn. I, 79. — GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. 1844, p. 25; Gen. B. fol. sp. 12. — BONAP. Rev. Zool. 1850, 486. *Falco rufigularis* (not of DAUDIN!) GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. p. 54, 1844.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, Costa Rica; Coll. G. N. Lawrence). Above bluish plumbeous, the feathers darker centrally; anteriorly the black increases in extent, first leaving the plumbeous only as a border to the feathers, and then dropping it altogether, the head and nape being plain black; posteriorly the plumbeous predominates, and shows a tendency to form transverse bars. On the head and neck the black occupies the whole upper and lateral portions, reaching down to the throat, involving the whole of the cheeks and maxillæ, which it covers in an angular patch. Primaries and tail deep black; the former immaculate on their outer surface; the latter crossed by six (the last terminal) incomplete very narrow bands of pure white, formed by transverse bars, which touch neither the shaft nor edges of the feathers; upper tail-coverts crossed by about two bars of pure white. Immaculate area of the throat and jugulum deep rufous posteriorly and laterally, pure white anteriorly and centrally; from the jugulum to the tibiæ, and including the entire lining of the wing, continuous black, with transverse bars of white; tibiæ plain rufous; crissum mixed rufous and white, — the former predominating, — and thickly marked with large

tarsus, 1.50-1.60; middle toe, 1.75-2.10. Second quill longest; first inner than the 4. *Class*. Above rufous, or white and rufous, with large transverse spots of black; upper tail-coverts sharply barred with pure white or pale ash. *Adult*. Above plumbeous-black, the feathers conspicuously bordered with plumbeous-blue. Throat and jugulum immaculate; white centrally and anteriorly, deep rufous laterally and posteriorly. Tibiæ plain rufous. *Young*. Above uniform dull black, the feathers sometimes bordered inconspicuously with rusty. Throat and jugulum varying from white to ochraceous or rufous (this always deepest laterally and posteriorly). Tibiæ sometimes thickly spotted transversely with black. *Hab.* Tropical America, north to Southern Mexico.

3. *F. rufigularis*.<sup>1</sup> Wing, 7.20-9.00 (♂, wing, 7.70; tail, 3.95-5.50;

transverse spots of black; inner webs of primaries with transverse ovate spots of white, touching neither blunt nor edge of the feather; these number seven on the longest quill (second). Wing-formula, 2-1, 3-4. Wing, 9.90; tail, 5.50; tarsus, 1.55; middle toe, 1.75.

*Imm.* (♂, 51,293, Costa Rica, La Palma, August 25, 1867; José C. Zebalano). Whole upper surface black, deepest on the tail; it occupies the whole head (except the chin, throat, and sides of the neck), the black check-pattern having considerable prominence; feathers everywhere (except on the head and neck) indistinctly bordered with light brownish, this becoming more distinct posteriorly; upper tail-coverts tipped and barred beneath the surface with pure white; secondaries, primaries, and primary coverts narrowly but sharply tipped with pure white; tail crossed with five very sharp bars of pure white, the last terminal, the first two concealed by the coverts; these transverse spots touch the shaft, but not the edge of the feather; on the lateral feather they are confined to the inner web. Chin, throat, neck, and breast, abdomen, crissum, and lower tail-coverts, deep orange (not chestnut) rufous; in fact, this forms the ground-color of the whole lower parts; but the sides, flanks, and abdomen have such large transverse spots of black (these exceeding the orange in amount), giving the prevailing color; the orange of the jugulum is sharply defined, with a semicircular outline, against the black of the belly, and has distinct lanceolate shaft-streaks of black; the lower part of the abdomen, and the tibiæ, have cordate or broadly sagittate black spots, rather exceeding the orange; the lower tail-coverts have broad transverse spots of black. (The orange is deepest on the jugulum and crissum, being palest where most thickly spotted; it is immaculate only on chin, throat, and neck; the markings are longitudinal only on the jugulum.) Lining of the wing like the belly, that is, the black predominating; under surface of primaries with transverse elliptical spots of pale cream-color, seven in number on the longest. Wing-formula, 2, 1-3. Wing, 9.90; tail, 5.40; culmen, .72; tarsus, 1.40; middle toe, 1.75; outer toe, 1.20; inner, 1.00; posterior, .80.

*List of Specimens examined.* National Museum, 1; G. N. Lawrence, 1; Boston Society, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 3. Total, 7.

*Measurements.* — ♀. Wing, 10.90-11.30; tail, 6.00-6.25; culmen, .90; tarsus, 1.50-1.60; middle toe, 1.85-2.10.

<sup>1</sup> *Falco rufigularis*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 131, 1800. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 88, 1855. *Hypotriorchis rufigularis*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 5, 1844; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 54, 1848; Hand List, I, 21, 1869. — BONAP. Consp. Av. (sub *F. aurantius*). — GRAY, Hand List, I, 21, 1869. *Falco aurantius*, β, LATH. Ind. Orn. I, 48, 1790. *Falco aurantius*, γ, LATH. Ind. Orn. I, 48, 1790. *F. aurantius*, TEMM. Pl. Col. sub pl. cccxviii, 1836. — LIGHT. Ver. Doubl. p. 61, 1823. — CASS. B. N. Am. 1858, 10. — ELLIOT, Birds N. Am. pl. xi. *Falco abbigularis*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 131, 1800. *Falco hamorrhoidalis*, HAHN, Vög. XV, Lief. pl. i, 1818. *Falco cucullatus*, SWAINS. An. Mus. p. 349, 1838. *Falco thoracica*, DONOVAN, Nat. Rep. pl. xlv, 1822.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, 52,820, Mazatlan, Western Mexico; Col. A. J. Grayson). Above dark slate, with a bluish-plumbeous cast, and uniform over whole surface (wings included) from nape to tail. Anteriorly the tint is almost black, this covering continuously the whole upper and lateral portion of the head, reaching down to the throat, and forming a broad angular pro-

culmen, .45 - .58; tarsus, 1.20 - 1.55; middle toe, 1.15 - 1.40. Second quill longest; first longer than third. Clavium inferiora deep reddish-rufous, rarely barred with white and dusky. Upper tail-coverts obsoletely barred with plumbeous.

*Adult.* Above plumbeous-black, the feathers lightening into plumbeous-blue on the edges and ends, and showing obscure bars on the posterior portions. Throat and jugulum ochraceous-white, the ochraceous tinge deepest posteriorly and without any streaks. *Young.* Above plumbeous-black, without lighter obscure bars, or with a brownish cast, and with faint rusty edges to the feathers. Throat and jugulum deep soft

jection over the cheeks, which are purer black. All the feathers above darker centrally, but the obscure spots so formed mostly concealed; shafts of the feathers inconspicuously black; upper tail-coverts each with two broad transverse spots of black. Secondaries, primary coverts, and primaries uniform dull black; the former, and inner feathers of the latter, very narrowly ashy-whitish on terminal border, — the coverts with a bluish shade terminally. Tail black (dull light brown at apical margin), crossed with about six obsolete narrow bands of plumbeous, these changing to narrower white bars on the inner webs. Chin, base of maxille, throat, sides of the neck, and jugulum, ochraceous-white, the ochraceous tinge deepest posteriorly; breast (broadly across) and sides black, with numerous narrow transverse bars of reddish-white, becoming more ashy posteriorly; abdomen, anal region, tibiae, femorals, and lower tail-coverts uniform deep, almost castaneous, rufous. Lining of the wing dull black, with circular ochraceous-white spots, but former predominating; whole under surface of primaries and secondaries a similar blackish-dusky, the former with narrow transverse elliptical spots of white, of which there are eight (the first and last merely indicated) on the longest quill. Wing-formula, 2 - 1 - 3. Wing, 7.70; tail, 3.95; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, 1.20. Tail slightly emarginated; second and third feathers longest (counting from exterior).

♀ (5,218, Mazatlan; Colonel Grayson). Almost precisely similar to the male; less contrast between blackish-plumbeous of the nape, and more bluish of the back; bands on tail five in number; bars on black beneath more reddish. Wing-formula same. Wing, 8.80; tail, 4.40; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, 1.30.

*Juv.* (Bryant Coll. 1,531, Orizaba, Mex.). Above continuous dull black, without bluish cast or concealed spots; tail-bands narrower, purer white; black beneath duller, transverse bars more obsolete, broader, and pale rusty; chestnut-rufous of posterior lower portions lighter and less uniform; lower tail-coverts with broad transverse spots of plumbeous-black. Wing-formula as in adult. Wing, 8.75; tail, 4.40.

Two young males from Tehuantepec, Mexico (Nos. 613 and 613, May 16, 1871; F. Sumichrast), differ from that described above in some remarkable respects: the upper parts are in one black, but without the rusty margins to the feathers; in the other, almost exactly as in the adult plumage described. The lower parts, however, are most different; the throat and jugular are uniform deep soft ochraceous, with a few longitudinal streaks of black near the black abdominal patch; the bars in this last are deep rufous, and the terminal band of the tail is also deep rufous. The weak bill, and soft, blended character of the plumage, indicate unmistakably the very young age of these specimens, which are also marked "very young" by M. Sumichrast.

In colors, as well as in size and form, this very handsome little Falcon closely resembles the *F. severus*, Horsf., of Manila and the neighboring East Indian Islands; the main difference is that in that species the lower surface is wholly deep rufous, instead of partly black.

*List of Specimens examined.* — National Museum, 11; Boston Society, 6; Philadelphia Academy, 7; New York Museum, 3; G. N. Lawrence, 3; R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 32.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 7.20 - 8.80; tail, 4.20 - 5.10; culmen, .45 - .55; tarsus, 1.25 - 1.50; middle toe, 1.15 - 1.30. Specimens, 13. ♀. Wing, 8.50 - 9.00; tail, 5.00 - 5.50; culmen, .58; tarsus, 1.48 - 1.55; middle toe, 1.30 - 1.40. Specimens, 8.

HAB. Tropical America, northward through Central America and Mexico almost to southern border of United States.

Localities: Veragua, SCL. & SALV. 1869, 252.



ochraceous, deepest laterally, the posterior portion usually with a few longitudinal streaks of dusky. *Hab.* Tropical America, north to Middle Mexico.

### **Falco communis, GMEL.**

*V. communis, Gmel.*

#### **AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON; DUCK HAWK.**

*Falco peregrinus falco*, B. & S. Orn. I, 529. — *Falco peregrinus*, GMEL. S. N. 1789, 271. — *Falco peregrinus*, Gmel. *Falco peregrinus*, LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 31. — *Falco peregrinus*, COOPER, Key, 1872, 216, 1, 141. — *Falco peregrinus*, ORN. Wils. Am. Orn. 1808, pl. XLV. — SAL. L. Trans. XII, 529. — REICH. P. B. 24 V. 3, App. 742. — IB. F. B. A. II, 1861, 23. — BONAP. N. Y. L. II, 27. — IB. L. S., 1862, 1136; Comp. 1850, 23, No. 4. — KING, Voy. Beag. I, 1839, 532. — JAMES. Wils. Am. Orn. 677, Synop. 1852, 683. — WEDDERB. Jard. Contr. to Orn. 1849, 81. — WOODH. Sitgr. Zool., 1853, 60. — GIRAUD, B. Long Island, 1844, 14. — PEALE, U. S. Ex. Ex. 1848, 66. — GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. 1841, 51. — *Falco anatum*, BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. 1838, 4. — IB. Rev. Zool. 1850, 484. — BRIDG. Proc. Zool. Soc. pl. xi, 109. — IB. Ann. N. H. XIII, 499. — GOSSE, B. Jam. 1847, 16. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. 1854, 86. — IB. Birds N. Am. 1858, 7. — DEKAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 13, pl. iii, f. 8. — NUTT. Man. 1833, 53. — PEAB. B. Mass. 1841, 83. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 83. — BLAKIST. Ibis, III, 1861, 315. — MARCH, Pr. Ac. N. S. 1863, 304. — *Falco nigriceps*, CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. I, 1853, 87. — IB. Birds N. Am. 1858, 8. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 85. — COOP. & SUCKL. P. R. R. Rep't, VII, ii, 1860, 142. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 19, No. 166. — SHARPE, Ann. & Mag. N. H. *Falco orientalis*, (Gmel.) GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 19, No. 165 (in part). — *Falco cassinii*, SHARPE, Ann. & Mag. N. H.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (♂, 43,134, Fort Resolution, Brit. N. Am., June; J. Lockhart). Upper parts dark bluish-plumbeous, approaching black anteriorly, but on rump and upper tail-coverts becoming fine bluish plumbeous-ash. On the head and neck the continuous plumbeous-black covers all the former except the chin and throat, and the back portion of the latter; an invasion or indentation of the white of lower parts up behind the ear-coverts separating that of the cheeks from the posterior black, throwing the former into a prominent angular patch; forehead and lores grayish. All the feathers above (posterior to the nape) with transverse bars of plumbeous-black, these most sharply defined posteriorly, where the plumbeous is lightest. Tail black, more plumbeous basally, very faintly paler at the tip, and showing ten or eleven transverse narrow bands of plumbeous, these most distinct anteriorly; the bars are clearest on inner webs. Alula, primary and secondary coverts, secondaries and primaries, uniform plumbeous-black, narrowly whitish on terminal margin, most observable on secondaries and inner primaries. Lower parts white, tinged with delicate cream-color, this deepest on the abdomen; sides and tibiae tinged with bluish. Chin, throat, and jugulum immaculate; the breast, however, with faint longitudinal shaft-streaks of black; sides, flanks, and tibiae distinctly barred transversely with black, about four bars being on each feather; on the lower tail-coverts they are narrower and more distant; on the abdomen the markings are in the form of circular spots; anal region barred transversely. Lining of the wing (including all the under coverts) white tinged with blue, and barred like the sides; under surface of primaries slaty, with elliptical spots or bars of creamy-white on inner webs, twelve on the longest. Wing-formula, 2-1-3. Wing, 12.25; tail, 6.00; tarsus, 1.60; middle toe, 1.85; outer, 1.40; inner, 1.20; posterior, .80; culmen, .80.

♀ (13,077, Liberty Co., Georgia; Professor J. L. Leconte). Like the male, but ochraceous tinge beneath deeper; no ashy wash; bands on the tail more sharply defined, about ten dark ones being indicated; outer surface of primaries and secondaries with

bands apparent; tail distinctly tipped with ochraceous-white. Inner web of longest primary with thirteen, more reddish, transverse spots. White of neck extending obliquely upward and forward toward the eye, giving the black cheek-patch more prominence. Markings beneath as in the male. Wing-formula the same. Wing, 14.50; tail, 7.00; tarsus, 1.95; middle toe, 2.10; culmen, .95.

*Juv.* (♂, 53,193, Truckee River, Nevada, July 24, 1867; R. Ridgway: first plumage). Above plumbeous-black, tail more slaty. Every feather broadly bordered terminally with dull cinnamon; these crescentic bars becoming gradually broader posteriorly, narrower and more obsolete on the head above. Tail distinctly tipped with pale cinnamon, the inner webs of feathers with obsolete transverse spots of the same, these touching neither the edge nor the shaft; scarcely apparent indications of corresponding spots on outer webs. Region round the eye, and broad "mustache" across the cheeks, pure black, the latter more conspicuous than in the older stages, being cut off posteriorly by the extension of the cream-color of the neck nearly to the eye. A broad stripe of pale ochraceous running from above the ear-coverts back to the occiput, where the two of opposite sides nearly meet. Lower parts purplish cream-color, or rosy ochraceous-white, deepest posteriorly; jugulum, breast, sides, flanks, and tibiae with longitudinal stripes of plumbeous-black, these broadest on flanks and abdomen, and somewhat sagittate on the tibiae; lower tail-coverts with distant transverse bars. Lining of the wing like the sides, but the markings more transverse; inner web of longest primary with nine transverse purplish-ochre spots. Wing-formula, 2-1 3. Wing, 12.50; tail, 7.00. Length, 16.50; expanse, 39.25. Weight, 1½ lbs. Basal half of bill pale bluish-white, cere rather darker; terminal half (rather abruptly) slate-color, the tip deepening into black; iris very dark vivid vandyke-brown; naked orbital space pale bluish-white, with a slight greenish tint; tarsi and toes lemon-yellow, with a slight green cast; claws jet-black.

HAB. Entire continent of America, and neighboring islands.

Localities: Guatemala (SCL. Ibis I, 219); Veragua (SALV. P. Z. S. 1867, 158); Sta. Cruz (NEWTON, Ibis, I, 63); Trinidad (TAYLOR, Ibis, 1864, 80); Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. 1859, VII); Cuba (CAB. Journ. II, lxxxiii); (GENDL. Repert. 1865, 225); Jamaica, (GOSSE, B. Jam. 16; MARCH, Pr. Ac. N. S. 1863, 304, et Mus. S. I.); Tierra del Fuego (SHARPE, Ann. & Mag. N. H.; "*F. cassini*, SHARPE").

The young plumage above described corresponds exactly with that of young *peregrinus* from Europe, a comparison of the specimen above described with one of the same age from Germany (54,064, Schlüter Col.) showing no differences that can be expressed. Many American specimens in this plumage (as 19,397, Fort Simpson) show a wash of whitish over the forehead and anterior part of the crown; having before us but the one specimen, we cannot say whether or not this is ever seen in the European bird. Specimens more advanced in season—perhaps in second year—are colored as follows: The black above is more brownish, the feathers margined with pale brown,—these margins broader, and approaching to white, on the upper tail-coverts; the tail shows the ochraceous bars only on inner webs. The supraoral stripe of the youngest plumage is also quite apparent.

A still younger one from the same locality (No. 37,397) has the upper plumage similar to the last, the pale edges to the feathers, however, more distinct; tail with conspicuous spots. White beneath clearer, and invading the dusky of the head above as far back as the middle of the crown; the supraoral stripe is distinct, scarcely interrupted across the nape.

In the adult plumage the principal variation is in the extent and disposition of the bars beneath. In most individuals they are regularly transverse only laterally and posteriorly, those on the belly being somewhat broken into more irregular cordate spots, though always transverse; in no American specimen, however, are they as continuously transverse as in a male (No. 18,804) from Europe, which, however, in this respect, we think, forms an exception to most European examples, at least to those in the Smithsonian Collection. All variations in the form, thickness, and continuity of the markings below, and in the distinctness of the bars above, are individual.

Very old males (as 49,790, Fort Yukon; 27,188, Moose Factory (type of Elliott's figure of *F. peregrinus*, in Birds of America); and 42,997, Spanish-town, Jamaica) lack almost entirely the reddish tinge beneath, and have the lateral and posterior portions strongly tinged with blue; the latter feature is especially noticeable in the specimen from Jamaica, in which also the bars are almost utterly wanting medially. Immature birds from this island also lack to a great degree the ochraceous tinge, leaving the whitish everywhere purer.

A female adult European bird differs from the average of North American examples in the conspicuous longitudinal streaks on the jugulum; but in a male these are hardly more distinct than in 13,077, ♀, Liberty Co., Georgia; 11,983, "United States"; 35,456, Peel's River; 35,449, ♀, and 35,445, ♀, Fort Yukon, Alaska; 35,452, La Pierre's Hous., H. B. Ter.; 35,459 ♂, Fort Anderson; and 28,099 ♀, Hartford, Conn. In none of these, however, are they so numerous and conspicuous as in a European female from the Schlüter Collection, which, however, differs in these respects only from North American specimens.

A somewhat melanistic individual (in second year? 32,735, Chicago, Ill.; Robert Kennicott) differs as follows: Above continuously pure black; upper tail-coverts and longer scapulars bordered terminally with rusty-whitish. Tail distinctly tipped with white; the inner webs of feathers with eight elliptical transverse bars of pale ochraceous, and indications of corresponding spots of the same on outer webs, forming as many inconspicuous bands. Beneath ochraceous-white; the neck, breast, and abdomen thickly marked with broad longitudinal stripes of clear black,—those on the jugulum cuneate, and on the breast and abdomen broadly sagittate; the tibiae with numerous cordate spots, and sides marked more transversely; lower tail-coverts with narrow distant transverse bars. On the chin and throat only, the whitish is immaculate, on the other portions being somewhat exceeded in amount by the black. Inner web of longest primary with seven transverse elliptical bars of cream-color. Wing, 12.20; tail, 9.40.

Whether the North American and European Peregrine Falcons are or are not distinct has been a question undecided up to the present day; almost every ornithologist having his own peculiar views upon the relationship of the different forms which have been from time to time characterized. The

most favorably received opinion, however, seems to be that there are two species on the American continent, and that one of these, the northern one, is identical with the European bird. Both these views I hold to be entirely erroneous; for after examining and comparing critically a series of more than one hundred specimens of these birds, from every portion of America (except eastern South America), including nearly all the West India Islands, as well as numbers of localities throughout continental North and South America, I find that, with the exception of the melanistic littoral race of the northwest coast (var. *pealei*), they all fall under one race, which, though itself exceedingly variable, yet possesses characters whereby it may always be distinguished from the Peregrine of all portions of the Old World.

There is such a great amount of variability, in size, colors, and markings, that the *F. nigriceps*, Cassin, must be entirely ignored as being based upon specimens not distinguishable in any respect from typical *anatum*. Judging from the characters assigned to the *F. cassini* by its describer (who evidently had a very small series of American specimens at his command), the latter name must also most probably fall into the list of synonymes of *anatum*.

Slight as are the characters which separate the Peregrines of the New and Old World, i. e. the immaculate jugulum of the former and the streaked one of the latter, they are yet sufficiently constant to warrant their separation as geographical races of one species; along with which the *F. melanogenys*, Gould (Australia), *F. minor*, Bonap. (South Africa), *F. orientalis*, Gmel. (E. Asia), and *F. calidus*, Lath. (Southern India and East Indies), must also rank as simple geographical races of the same species. Whether the *F. calidus* is tenable, I am unable to state, for I have not seen it; but the others appear to be all sufficiently differentiated. The *F. radama*, Verreaux (Gray's Hand List, p. 19, No. 170), Mr. Gurney writes me, is the young female of var. *minor*. Whether the *F. peregrinator*, Sundevall (Gray's Hand List, No. 169), is another of the regional forms of *F. communis*, or a distinct species, I am not able at present to say, not having specimens accessible to me for examination.

Mr. Cassin's type of "*nigriceps*" (13,856, ♂, July), from Chile, is before me, and upon comparison with adult males from Arctic America presents no tangible differences beyond its smaller size; the wing is a little more than half an inch, and the middle toe less than the eighth of an inch, shorter than in the smallest of the North American series, — a discrepancy slight indeed, and of little value as the sole specific character; the plumage being almost precisely similar to that of the specimen selected for the type of the description at the head of this article. In order to show the little consequence to be attached to the small size of the individual just mentioned, I would state that there is before me a young bird, received from the National Museum of Chile, and obtained in the vicinity of Santiago, which is precisely similar in plumage to the Nevada specimen described, and in size is even considerably



larger, though it is but just to say that it is a female; the wing measures 13.25, instead of 12.50, and the middle toe, 2.00, instead of 1.85. No. 37,336, Tres Marias Islands, Western Mexico, — a young male in second year, — has the wing just the same length as in the smallest North American example, while in plumage it is precisely similar to 26,785, of the same age, from Jamaica. No. 4,367, from Puget's Sound, Washington Territory, — also a young male, — has the wing of the same length as in the largest northern specimen, while the plumage is as usual.

Two adult females from Connecticut (Nos. 28,099 and 32,507, Talcott Mt.) are remarkable for their very deep colors, in which they differ from all other North American examples which I have seen, and answer in every particular to the description of *F. cassini*, Sharpe, above cited. The upper surface is plumbeous-black, becoming deep black anteriorly, the head without a single light feather in the black portions; the plumbeous bars are distinct only on the rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail, and are just perceptible on the secondaries. The lower parts are of a very deep reddish-ochraceous, deepest on the breast and abdomen, where it approaches a cinnamon tint, — the markings, however, as in other examples. They measure, wing, 14.75; tail, 7.50; culmen, 1.05 – 1.15; tarsus, 2.00; middle toe, 2.30. They were obtained from the nest, and kept in confinement three years, when they were sacrificed to science. The unusual size of the bill of these specimens (see measurements) is undoubtedly due to the influence of confinement, or the result of a modified mode of feeding. The specimens were presented by Dr. S. S. Moses, of Hartford.

An adult male (No. 8,501) from Shoal-water Bay, Washington Territory, is exactly of the size of the male described. In this specimen there is not the slightest creamy tinge beneath, while the blue tinge on the lower parts laterally and posteriorly is very strong. No. 52,818, an adult female from Mazatlan, Western Mexico, has the wing three quarters of an inch shorter than in the largest of four northern females, and of the same length as in the smallest; there is nothing unusual about its plumage, except that the bars beneath are sparse, and the ochraceous tinge quite deep. No. 27,057, Fort Good Hope, H. B. T., is, however, exactly similar, in these respects, and the wing is but half an inch longer. In No. 47,588, ♂, from the Farallones Islands, near San Francisco, California, the wing is the same length as in the average of northern and eastern specimens, while the streaks on the jugulum are nearly as conspicuous as in a male from Europe.

In conclusion, I would say that the sole distinguishing character between the Peregrines from America and those from Europe, that can be relied on, appears to be found in the markings on the breast in the adult plumage; in all the specimens and figures of var. *communis* that I have seen, the breast has the longitudinal dashes very conspicuous; while, as a general rule, in *anatum* these markings are entirely absent, though sometimes present, and occasionally nearly as distinct as in European examples. There-

fore, if this conspicuous streaking of the breast is found in all European specimens, the American bird is entitled to separation as a variety; but if the breast is ever immaculate in European examples, then *anatum* must sink into a pure synonyme of *commodus*. The var. *melanopygia* is distinguished from both *commodus* and *anatum* by the black auriculars, or by a greater amount of black on the side of the neck, and by more numerous and narrower bars on the under surface. In the former feature examples of *anatum* from the southern extremity of South America approach quite closely to the Australian form, as might be expected from the relative geographical position of the two regions. The var. *minor* is merely the smaller intertropical race of the Old World, perhaps better characterized than the tropical American form named *F. nigriceps* by Cassin, the characters of which are so unimportant, and withal so inconstant, as to forbid our recognizing it as a race of the same rank with the others.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 15; Boston Society, 1; Philadelphia Academy, 22; Museum Comp. Zool. 5; New York Museum, 3; G. N. Lawrence, 6; R. Ridgway, 3. Total, 55.

## Measurements.

Ser.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	11.30-13.00	6.00-7.50	.75-.80	1.60-1.90	1.78-2.05	29
♀	13.00-14.75	7.30-9.00	.85-1.00	1.95-2.10	1.95-2.20	28

Var. **pealei**, RIDGWAY.

## BLACK PEREGRINE FALCON.

?? *Accipiter falco niger*, BRISS. Orn. I, 337. ?? *Falco niger*, GMEL. S. N. 1789, 270. *Falco polyagrus*, CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. pl. xvi (dark figure).

SP. CHAR. In colors almost exactly similar to *F. apudica*, var. *labradora*. Above continuous dark vandyke-brown, approaching brownish-black on the head, which is variegated only on the gular region, and inclining to grayish-brown on the tail; the whole surface entirely free from spots or markings of any kind. Beneath similar in color to the upper parts, but the feathers edged with whitish, this rather predominating on the throat; flanks and tibiæ with roundish white spots; lower tail-coverts with broad transverse bars of white. Lining of the wing with feathers narrowly tipped with white; inner webs of primaries with narrow, transverse elliptical spots of cream-color; inner webs of tail-feathers with badly defined, irregular, similar spots, or else with these wanting, the whole web being plain dusky-brown.

No. 12,022 (♀, Oregon; T. R. Peale). Wing, 15.00; tail, 8.50; culmen, .95; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 2.15. (Figured by Cassin as *F. polyagrus*, in *Birds of California and Texas*, pl. xvi.)

No. 45,814 (♀, Sitka, Alaska, May, 1866; F. Bischoff). Wing, 14.90; tail, 8.50; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 2.20. The two similar in color, but in the latter the white streaks on the lower parts a little broader, and the middle of the auriculars slightly streaked.

HAB. Northwest coast of North America, from Oregon to Sitka.

This curious race of *Falco mexicanus* is a good illustration of the climatic peculiarity of the northwest coast region, to which I have often referred before; the same melanistic tendency being apparent in birds of other species from the same region, as an example of which I may mention the Black Merlin *Falco a. salom*, var. *suckleyi*, which is a perfect miniature of the present bird.

**HABITS.** The Great-footed Hawk of North America is very closely allied to the well-known Peregrine Falcon of Europe, and so closely resembles it that by many writers, even at the present day, it is regarded as identical with it. Without doubt, the habits of the two races are very nearly the same, though the peculiarities of the North American bird are not so well known as are those of the European. In its distribution it is somewhat erratic, for the most part confined to the rocky sea-coast, the river-banks, and the high ground of the northeastern parts of America. It is known to breed in a few isolated rocky crags in various parts of the country, even as far to the south as Pennsylvania, and it occurs probably both as migrant and resident in several of the West India Islands, in Central and in South America. A single specimen was taken by Dr. Woodhouse in the Creek country of the Indian Territory. Two individuals are reported by Von Pelzeln as having been taken in Brazil. The Newtons met with it in St. Croix. Mr. Gosse found it in Jamaica, and Dr. Gundlach gives it as a bird of Cuba. Jardine states it to be a bird of Bermuda, and also that it has been taken in the Straits of Magellan. A single specimen was taken at Dueñas, Guatemala, in February, by Mr. Salvin.

On the Pacific coast this Falcon has been traced as far south as the limit of the land. Dr. Cooper met with only two pairs, in March, 1854, frequenting a high wooded cliff at Shoal-water Bay. Dr. Suckley procured a single specimen from Steilacoom. Dr. Cooper states that the habits of these corresponded with those described for the *F. anatum* and *F. peregrinus*, and that, like these Falcons, it is a terror to all land animals weaker than itself. It is said to breed on the rocky cliffs of the Pacific.

An individual of this bird was taken by Colonel Grayson at the Tres Marias Islands. When shot, it was endeavoring to capture a Sparrowhawk, indicating its indifference as to the game it pursues. He adds that this bird attacks with vigor everything it sees, from the size of a Mallard Duck down, and is the terror of all small birds. Its range must be very great, as it often ventures far out to sea. On his passage from Mazatlan to San Francisco, in 1858, on the bark Carlota, one of these Falcons came on board more than a hundred miles off the coast of Lower California, and took up its quarters on the main-top yard, where it remained two days, during which time it captured several Dusky Petrels. It would dart headlong upon these unsuspecting birds, seldom missing its aim. It would then return to its resting-place and partly devour its prize. At other times it dropped its victims into the sea in wanton sport. Finally, as if tired of

this kind of game, it made several wide circles around the ship, ascended to a considerable height, and departed in the direction of the Mexican shore.

This Falcon is found along the Atlantic coast from Maine to the extreme northern portion, breeding on the high rocky cliffs of Grand Menan and in various favorable situations thence northward. A few breed on Mount Tom, near the Connecticut River in Massachusetts, on Talcott Mountain in Connecticut, in Pennsylvania, and near Harper's Ferry, in Maryland.

Mr. Boardman has several times taken their eggs from the cliffs of Grand Menan, where they breed in April, or early in May. In one instance he found the nest in close proximity to that of a pair of Ravens, the two families being apparently on terms of amity or mutual tolerance.

For several years two or more pairs of these birds have been known to breed regularly on Mount Tom, near Northampton. The nests were placed on the edges of precipitous rocks very early in the spring, the young having been fully grown by the last of June. Their young and their eggs have been taken year after year, yet at the last accounts they still continued to nest in that locality. Dr. W. Wood has also found this species breeding on Talcott Mountain, near Hartford. Four young were found, nearly fledged, June 1. In one instance four eggs were taken from a nest on Mount Tom, by Mr. C. W. Bennett, as early as April 19. This was in 1864. Several times since he has taken their eggs from the same eyrie, though the Hawks have at times deserted it and sought other retreats. In one year a pair was twice robbed, and, as is supposed, made a third nest, and had unfledged young as late as August. Mr. Allen states that these Hawks repair to Mount Tom very early in the spring, and carefully watch and defend their eyrie, manifesting even more alarm at this early period, when it is approached, than they evince later, when it contains eggs or young. Mr. Bennett speaks of the nest as a mere apology for one.

This Hawk formerly nested on a high cliff near the house of Professor S. S. Haldeman, Columbia, Penn., who several times procured young birds which had fallen from the nest. The birds remained about this cliff ten or eleven months of the year, only disappearing during the coldest weather, and returning with the first favorable change. They bred early in spring, the young leaving the nest perhaps in May. Professor Haldeman was of the opinion that but a single pair remained, the young disappearing in the course of the season.

Sir John Richardson, in his Arctic expedition in 1845, while descending the Mackenzie River, latitude 65°, noticed what he presumed to be a nest of this species, placed on the cliff of a sandstone rock. This Falcon was rare on that river.

Mr. MacFarlane found this species not uncommon on the banks of Lockhart and Anderson Rivers, in the Arctic regions. In one instance he mentions finding a nest on a cliff thirty feet from the ground. There were four eggs lying on a ledge of the shale of which the cliff was composed. Both



parents were present, and kept up a continued screaming, though at too great a distance for him to shoot either. He adds that this bird is by no means scarce on Lockhart River, and he was informed that it also nests along the ramparts and other steep banks of the Upper Anderson, though he has not been able to learn that it has been found north of Fort Anderson. In another instance the nest was on a ledge of clayey mud, — the eggs, in fact, lying on the bare ground, and nothing resembling a nest to be seen. A third nest was found on a ledge of crumbling shale, along the banks of the Anderson River, near the outlet of the Lockhart. This Hawk, he remarks, so far as he was able to observe, constructs no nest whatever. At least, on the Anderson River, where he found it tolerably abundant, it was found to invariably lay its eggs on a ledge of rock or shale, without making use of any accessory lining or protection, always availing itself of the most inaccessible ledges. He was of the opinion that they do not breed to the northward of the 68th parallel. They were also to be found nesting in occasional pairs along the lime and sandstone banks of the Mackenzie, where early in August, for several successive years, he noticed the young of the season fully fledged, though still attended by the parent birds.

In subsequent notes, Mr. MacFarlane repeats his observations that this species constructs no nest, merely laying its eggs on a ledge of shale or other rock. Both parents were invariably seen about the spot. In some instances the eggs found were much larger than in others.

Mr. Dall mentions shooting a pair near Nuk'koh, on the Yukon River, that had a nest on a dead spruce. The young, on the 1st of June, were nearly ready to fly. It was not a common species, but was found from Nulato to Sitka and Kodiak.

In regard to general characteristics of this Falcon, they do not apparently differ in any essential respects from those of the better-known *Falco communis* of the Old World. It flies with immense rapidity, rarely sails in the manner of other Hawks, and then only for brief periods and when disappointed in some attempt upon its prey. In such cases, Mr. Audubon states, it merely rises in a broad spiral circuit, in order to reconnoitre a space below. It then flies swiftly off in quest of plunder. These flights are made in the manner of the Wild Pigeon. When it perceives its object, it increases the flappings of its wings, and pursues its victim with a surprising rapidity. It turns, and winds, and follows every change of motion of the object of pursuit with instantaneous quickness. Occasionally it seizes a bird too heavy to be managed, and if this be over the water it drops it, if the distance to land be too great, and flies off in pursuit of another. Mr. Audubon has known one of this species to come at the report of a gun, and carry off a Teal not thirty steps distant from the sportsman who had killed it. This daring conduct is a characteristic trait.

This bird is noted for its predatory attacks upon water-fowl, but it does not confine itself to such prey. In the interior, Richardson states that it

preys upon the Wild Pigeon, and upon smaller birds. In one instance Audubon has known one to follow a tame Pigeon to its house, entering it at one hole and instantly flying out at the other. The same writer states that he has seen this bird feeding on dead fish that had floated to the banks of the Mississippi. Occasionally it alights on the dead branch of a tree in the neighborhood of marshy ground, and watches, apparently surveying, piece by piece, every portion of the territory. As soon as it perceives a suitable victim, it darts upon it like an arrow. While feeding, it is said to be very cleanly, tearing the flesh, after removing the feathers, into small pieces, and swallowing them one by one.

The European species, as is well known, was once largely trained for the chase, and even to this day is occasionally used for this purpose; its docility in confinement, and its wonderful powers of flight, rendering it an efficient assistant to the huntsman. We have no reason to doubt that our own bird might be made equally serviceable.

Excepting during the breeding-season, it is a solitary bird. It mates early in February, and even earlier in the winter. Early in the fall the families separate, and each bird seems to keep to itself until the period of reproduction returns.

In confinement, birds of this family become quite tame, can be trained to habits of wonderful docility and obedience, and evince even an affection for the one who cares for their wants.

This species appears to nest almost exclusively on cliffs, and rarely, if ever, to make any nests in other situations. In a few rare and exceptional cases this Falcon has been known to construct a nest in trees. Mr. Ord speaks of its thus nesting among the cedar swamps of New Jersey; but this fact has been discredited, and there has been no recent evidence of its thus breeding in that State. Mr. Dall found its nest in a tree in Alaska, but makes no mention of its peculiarities.

The eggs of this species are of a rounded-oval shape, and range from 2.00 to 2.22 inches in length, and from 1.60 to 1.90 in width. Five eggs, from Anderson River, have an average size of 2.09 by 1.65 inches. An egg from Mount Tom, Mass., is larger than any other I have seen, measuring 2.22 inches in length by 1.70 in breadth, and differs in the brighter coloring and a larger proportion of red in its markings. The ground is a deep cream-color, but is rarely visible, being generally so entirely overlaid by markings as nowhere to appear. In many the ground-color appears to have a reddish tinge, probably due to the brown markings which so nearly conceal it. In others, nothing appears but a deep coating of dark ferruginous or chocolate-brown, not homogeneous, but of varying depth of coloring, and here and there deepening into almost blackness. In one egg, from Anderson River, the cream-colored ground is very apparent, and only sparingly marked with blotches of a light brown, with a shading of bronze. An egg from the cabinet of Mr. Dickinson, of Springfield, taken on Mount Tom, Massachusetts,

is boldly blotched with markings of a bright chestnut-brown, varying greatly in its shadings.

#### SUBGENUS **ÆSALON**, KAUP.

*Æsalon*, KAUP, 1829. Type, *F. lithofalco*, GMELIN. *F. æsalon*, GMELIN, 1789.  
*Hypobrycon*, AUD. — BOIT, 1826, the type of which is *F. lithofalco*, GMELIN.  
*Dendrofalco*, GRAY, 1840. (Type, *F. æsalon*, GMELIN.)

This subgenus contains, apparently, but the single species *F. lithofalco*, which is found nearly throughout the Northern Hemisphere, and in different climatic regions is modified into geographical races. Of these, North America possesses three, and Europe one; they may be distinguished as follows:—

#### Species and Races.

**F. lithofalco.** Second and third coverts longest; first usually shorter than, occasionally equal to, or rarely longer than, the fourth. *Adult female, and young of both sexes.* Above brownish, varying from pale earth-brown, or umber, to nearly black, plain, or with obscure transverse spotting of lighter; tail with five to eight lighter bands, which, however, are sometimes obsolete, except the terminal one. Beneath ochraceous-white, longitudinally striped with brown or dusky over the whole surface. *Adult male* (except in var. *suckleyi* and *richardsoni*?). Above plumbeous-blue, with darker shaft-streaks; tail with more or less distinct bands of black, and paler tip. Beneath much as in the female and young, but stripes usually narrower and more reddish. Wing, 7.20–9.00; tail, 4.90–6.30; culmen, .45–.60; tarsus, 1.30–1.60; middle toe, 1.15–1.51.

a. *Adult male* plumbeous-blue above; sexes very unlike in adult dress. Female and young without transverse spotting on upper parts.

*Adult male.* Tail deep plumbeous, tipped with ash, with six transverse series of dusky spots (which do not touch the shaft nor edge of the feathers) anterior to the subterminal zone, the black of which extends forward along the edge of the feather. Inner web of the longest primary with ten transverse spots of white. Streaks on the cheeks enlarged and blended, forming a conspicuous "mustache." Pectoral markings linear black. The ochraceous wash deepest across the nape and breast, and along the sides, and very pale on the tibiae. *Adult female.* Above brownish-plumbeous, the feathers becoming paler toward their margins, and with conspicuous black shaft-streaks. Tail with eight (three concealed) narrow bands of pale fulvous-ashy; longest primary with ten light spots on inner web. Outer webs of primaries with a few spots of ochraceous. *Young.* Similar to the ♀ *adult*, but with a more rusty cast to the plumage, and with more or less distinct transverse spots of paler on the upper parts. Wing, 7.60–9.00; tail, 5.10–6.30; culmen, .45–.55; tarsus, 1.35–1.47; middle toe, 1.15–1.35.

*Hab.* Europe . . . . . var. *lithofalco*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Falco*, *Æsalon lithofalco*, var. *lithofalco*, GMELIN. *Accipiter lithofalco*, BRISS. ORN. I, 1760, 349. *Falco lithofalco*, GMELIN, S. N. 1789, 278. *Æsalon lithofalco*, KAUP, FOLIO FAUK. MUS. SENCK. 258. *Falco regulus*, GMELIN, S. N. 1789, 285. *Accipiter æsalon*, BRISS. ORN. I, 1760, 382. *Falco æsalon*, GMELIN, S. N. 1789, 284. YARRELL, HIST. BRIT. B., ed. 1871, 74. *Hypobrycon æsalon*, GRAY, GOR. 1844, SP. 49. *Falco æsalon*, DAVIS, THE ORN. II, 1899, 141.

*Ad. male.* Tail dusky, tipped with white, and crossed by three or four narrow, continuous narrow bands of black (extending over both webs, and crossing the shaft), anterior to the broad subterminal zone, the black of which does not run forward along the edge of the feathers. Inner web of longest primary with seven to nine transverse spots of white. Streaks on the cheeks sparse and fine, not condensed into a "mustache." Pectoral markings broad clear brown. Ochraceous wash weak across the nape and breast, and along sides, and very deep on the tibiæ. *Adult female.* Above plumbeous-umber, without rusty margins to the feathers, and without conspicuous black shaft-streaks. Tail with only five (one concealed) narrow bands of pale ochraceous; outer webs of primaries without ochraceous spots; inner web of outer primary with eight spots of white. *Young.* Like the adult female, but darker. Wing, 7.90–8.25; tail, 5.15–5.25; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, 1.25. *Hab.* Entire continent of North America; West Indies.

var. *columbarius*

b. Adult male not bluish? sexes similar? upper parts with lighter transverse spots.

*Adult.* Above light grayish-umber, or earth-brown, with more or less distinct lighter transverse spots; secondaries crossed by three bands of ochraceous spots, and outer webs of inner primaries usually with spots of the same. Tail invariably with six complete and continuous narrow bands of dull white. Beneath white, with broad longitudinal markings of light brown, these finer and hair-like on the tibiæ and cheeks, where they are sparse and scattered, not forming a "mustache." Top of the head much lighter than the back. *Young.* Similar, but much tinged with rusty above, all the white portions inclining to pale ochraceous. Wing, 7.70–9.00; tail, 5.00–6.30; culmen, .50–.60; tarsus, 1.40–1.65; middle toe, 1.20–1.51. Second and third quills longest; first equal to fourth, slightly shorter, or sometimes slightly longer. *Hab.* Interior plains of North America, between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, from the Arctic regions to Texas.

var. (?) *richardsoni*.

c. Adult male not bluish? sexes similar? upper parts without transverse spots, and tail without lighter bands, except at the tip.

Above plain brownish-black; the tail narrowly tipped with whitish, but without other markings; inner webs of the primaries without lighter spots. Beneath pale ochraceous broadly striped with sooty-black. Wing, 7.35–8.50; tail, 5.25–5.75; culmen, .50–.55; tarsus, 1.30–1.62; middle toe, 1.25–1.35. *Hab.* Northwest coast region from Oregon to Sitka . . . . . var. *suckleyi*.

*Falco naerulus*, SAVIGNY, Descr. Egypt, Pt. I, 1809, 100. *Falco sibiricus*, SHAW, Zool. VII, 1812, 207. *Falco corsicus*, MEYER, Taschen. deutsch. Vog. I, 1810. *Falco sabarschen*, BREHM, Vog. Deutsch. I, 1831, 67.

*HAB.* Europe and Western Asia; Iceland.

*List of Specimens examined.* — National Museum, 8; Boston Society, 4; Cambridge Museum, 3; New York Museum, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 3. Total, 20.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 7.60–8.00; tail, 5.10–5.30; culmen, .45–.50; tarsus, 1.35–1.45; middle toe, 1.15; specimens, 10. ♀. Wing, 8.60–9.00; tail, 6.00–6.30; culmen, .52–.55; tarsus, 1.45–1.47; middle toe, 1.20–1.25; specimens, 10.



**Falco (Æsalon) lithofalco** (Gmelin).var. **columbarius**, LINNÆUS.**PIGEON HAWK: AMERICAN MERLIN.**

*Falco columbarius*, LINN. Syst. Nat. 1766, p. 128. — Gmel. Syst. Nat. 1789, p. 281. — LATH. Ind. Orn. I, 44, 1790; Syn. I, 101, sp. 86; Supp. I, 27, 1802; Gen. Hist. I, 278, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 83, 1800. — SHAW. Zool. VII, 188, 1812. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xv, fig. 3, 1808. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, p. 254, 1808. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 61. — BREW. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 683, 1852. — RICH. Faun. Bor. Am. II, 35, 1831. — AUD. Syn. B. A. p. 16, 1839; Orn. Biog. I, 466. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 28; Isis, 1832, p. 1136; Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 4, 1838. — NUTT. Man. I, 60, 1833. — CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 322, 1829. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 92, 1831. — FORST. Phil. Trans. LXII, 382, 1772. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, p. 212, 1837. — JARD. Ann. Nat. Hist. XVIII, 118. — GOSSE, B. Jam. p. 17, 1847. — SAGRA, Hist. Nat. Cuba Ois. p. 23. — WEDDERB. Jard. Cont. Orn. 1849, p. 81. — HURDIS, Jard. Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 6. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 15, pl. iv, f. 9, 1844. — GIRAUD, B. Long Isl. p. 17. — BLACKIST. Ibis, III, 315. *Tinnunculus columbarius*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, pl. xi, 1807; Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. XII, 104, 1819; Enc. Méth. III, 1236, 1823. *Hypotriorchis columbarius*, GRAY, List B. B. Mus. p. 55, 1844; Gen. B. fol. sp. 11, 1844. — CASS. B. Calif. & Tex. p. 90, 1854. — WOODH. (Sitg.) Exp. Zuñi & Colorad. p. 60, 1853. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. II, 31, 1855. — NEWB. P. R. Rept. VI, 74, 1857. — CASS. B. N. Am. p. 9, 1858. — COOPER & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, 1860, 142. — COUES, Pr. A. N. S. Phil. 1866, 6. — BREWER, Oölogy, 12. *Lithofalco columbarius*, BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 26, 1850. *Æsalon columbarius*, KAUP, Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. p. 54, 1850. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 21, 1869. *Falco obscurus*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. p. 281, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 44, 1790; Syn. Supp. I, 38, 1802; Gen. Hist. I, 272, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, p. 123, 1800. *Falco intermixtus*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, p. 141, 1800. — LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 136, 1821. *F. temerarius*, AUD. B. Am. pls. lxxv, xcii, 1831; Orn. Biog. I, 380, 1831. *F. auduboni*, BLACKW. Res. Zool. 1840. *Accipiter palumbarius*, CATESB. Carol. I, pl. iii, 1754.

SP. CHAR. *Adult male*. Above cinereous, varying in shade, but generally of a slaty-bluish cast; each feather with a distinct shaft-streak of black, these lines most conspicuous on the head above. Tail with a very broad subterminal band of black, about one inch in width; there are indications of three other bands, their continuity and distinction varying with the individual, but generally quite conspicuous, and each about half the width of the terminal one; the subterminal black band is succeeded by a terminal one of white, of about three-sixteenths of an inch in width, sometimes broader; on the lateral feathers the black bands are always conspicuous, being in form of transverse oblong spots, crossing the shaft, but less extended on the outer web, which is often immaculate except at the end, the broad terminal band always extending to the edge of the feather. Primaries dusky-black, margined terminally more or less distinctly with whitish (sometimes fading on the edge only); on the inner web is a series of about eight transverse oval spots of white, and generally corresponding to these are indications of bluish-ashy spots on the outer web. Beneath white, this purest on the throat, which is immaculate: there is generally a more or less strong tinge of fulvous beneath, this always prevalent on the tibiae, and on a distinct collar extending round the nape, interrupting the blue above; the tibiae frequently incline to ochraceous-rufous. Lateral portions of the head with fine streaks of dusky, these thickest on upper edge of the ear-coverts, leaving a distinct whitish superciliary streak, those of opposite sides meeting on the forehead. Breast, upper part of the abdomen, sides, and flanks, with longitudinal stripes of umber, each with a shaft-streak of black; on the flanks their shape is modified, here taking the form

of spots running in chain-like series; tibiae with narrower and darker streaks; lower tail-coverts with narrow central streaks like those on the tibiae. Frequently there is a strong bluish shade on flanks and lower tail-coverts, sometimes replacing the brown of the spots on the former, and clouding in a similar form the latter. Length, 11.00; extent, 23.75; wing, 7.75.

*Adult female.* Pattern of coloration as in the male, but the colors different. The blue above replaced by dark umber-brown with a plumbeous cast, and showing more or less distinct darker shaft-lines; these on the head above very broad, giving a streaked appearance; white spots on inner webs of primaries more ochraceous than in the male. Tail dark plumbeous-brown, shading into blackish toward end, with five rather narrow ochraceous or soiled white bars, the first of which is concealed by the upper coverts, the last terminal. White beneath, less tinged with reddish than in the male, the tibiae not different from the other portions; markings beneath as in the male.

*Juv.* Above plumbeous-brown, tinged with fulvous on head, and more or less washed with the same on the rump; frequently the feathers of the back, rump, scapulars, and wings pass into a reddish tinge at the edge; this color is, however, always prevalent on the head, which is conspicuously streaked with dusky. Tail plumbeous-dusky, darker terminally, with five regular light bars, those toward the base ashy, as they approach the end becoming more ochraceous; these bars are more continuous and regular than in the adult female, and are even conspicuous on the middle feathers. Primaries dusky, passing on edge (terminally) into lighter; spots on the inner webs broader than in the female, and pinkish-ochre; outer webs with less conspicuous corresponding spots of the same. Beneath soft ochraceous; spots as in adult female, but less sharply defined; tibiae not darker than abdomen.

HAB. Entire continent of North America, south to Venezuela and Ecuador; West India Islands.

Localities: Ecuador (high regions in winter, SCL. P. Z. S. 1858, 451); Cuba (CAB. Jour. II, lxxxiii, Gundlach, Sept. 1865, 225); Tobago (JARD. Ann. Mag. 116); S. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 323, breeding?); W. Arizona (COUES, Pr. A. N. S. 1866, 42); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 134); Venezuela (SCL. & SALV. 1869, 252).

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 42; Boston Society, 11; Philadelphia Academy, 10; Museum Comp. Zoöl., 7; New York Museum, 3; G. N. Lawrence, 2; R. Ridgway, 4. Total, 79.

*Measurements.*

Sex.	Wing	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	7.20 - 7.90	4.90 - 5.50	.48 - .50	1.30 - 1.40	1.15 - 1.25	31
♀	8.00 - 8.55	5.50 - 6.00	.55 - .60	1.55 - 1.60	1.35 -	32

The plumage of the adult male, which is not as often seen as that of the younger stages and adult female, is represented in the Smithsonian Collection by fifteen specimens, from various parts of North America. Of these, an example from Jamaica exhibits the purest shades of color, though agreeing closely with some specimens from the interior of the United States; the cinereous above being very fine, and of a light bluish cast. The upper tail-coverts are tipped with white; the tail is a quarter of an inch longer than in any North American specimen, one half-inch longer than the average; the wing, however, is about the same.

A specimen from Santa Clara, California (4,475, Dr. J. G. Cooper), like most of those from the Pacific coast, has the cinereous very dark above, while beneath the ochraceous is everywhere prevalent; the flanks are strongly tinged with blue; the black bars of the tail are much broken and irregular. A specimen from Jamaica (24,309, Spanish Town; W. T. March), however, is even darker than this one, the stripes beneath being almost pure black; on the tail black prevails, although the bands are very regular. Nos. 27,061, Fort Good Hope, British America, 43,136, Fort Yukon, Alaska, and 51,305, Mazatlan, Mexico, have the streaks beneath narrow and linear; the ochraceous confined to the tibiae, which are of a deep shade of this color.



*Falco columbarius*

A specimen from Nicaragua (No. 40,957, Chinandega) is like North American examples, but the reddish tinge beneath is scarcely discernible, and confined to the tibiae, which are but faintly ochraceous; the markings beneath are broad and deep umber, the black shaft-streak distinct.

In the adult female there is as little variation as in the male in plumage, the shade of brown above varying slightly, also the yellowish tinge beneath; the bars on the tail differ in continuity and tint in various specimens, although they are always five in number,—the first concealed by the coverts, the last terminal. In 19,382, Fort Simpson, British America, and 2,706, Yukon, R. Am. (probably very old birds), the light bars are continuous and pale dull ashy.

The young vary about the same as adults. Nos. 19,381, Big Island, Great Slave Lake; 5,483, Petaluma, California; and 3,760, Racine, Wisconsin,—

are young males moulting, scattered feathers appearing on the upper parts indicating the future blue plumage.

Var. *suckleyi*, RIDGWAY

### BLACK MERLIN.

SP. CHAR. A miniature of *F. peregrinus*, var. *pealei*. Above, uniform fuliginous-black, the secondaries and tail-feathers very narrowly but sharply tipped with white, and the primaries passing into whitish on their terminal margin; nuchal region with concealed spotting of pale rusty or dingy whitish. Beneath, longitudinally striped with fuliginous-black, or dark sooty-brown, and pale ochraceous; the former predominating on the breast, the latter prevailing on the throat and anal region. Sides and flanks nearly uniform dusky, with roundish white spots on both webs; lower tail-coverts with a broad sagittate spot of dusky on each feather. Lining of the wing fuliginous-dusky, with sparse, small roundish spots of white. Inner webs of primaries plain dusky, without spots, or else with them only faintly indicated. Tail plain dusky-black, narrowly tipped with white, and without any bands, or else with them only faintly indicated.

*Male* (No. 4,477, Shoalwater Bay, Washington Territory; J. G. Cooper). Wing, 7.35; tail, 5.25; culmen, .50; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, 1.25.

*Female* (No. 5,832, Fort Steilacoom, Washington Territory, September, 1856; Dr. George Suckley). Wing, 8.50; tail, 5.70; culmen, .55; tarsus, 1.62; middle toe, 1.35.

HAB. Coast region of Northern California, Oregon, and Washington Territory (probably northward to Alaska). Puget Sound, Steilacoom, Yreka, California (Oct.), and Shoalwater Bay (*National Museum*).

The plumage of this race is the chief point wherein it differs from the other forms of the species; and in its peculiarities we find just what should be expected from the Oregon region, merely representing as it does the melanistic condition so frequently observable in birds from the northwest coast.

The upper parts are unicolored, being continuous blackish-plumbeous from head to tail. The tail is tipped with white, but the bars are very faintly indicated, being in No. 4,499 altogether wanting, while in 21,333 they can scarcely be discovered, and only four are indicated; in the others there is the usual number, but they are very obsolete. In No. 4,499, the most extreme example, the spots on the inner webs of the primaries are also wanting; the sides of the head are very thickly streaked, the black predominating, leaving the superciliary stripe ill-defined; the throat is streaked, and the other dark markings beneath are so exaggerated that they cover all portions, and give the prevailing color; the under tail-coverts have broad central cordate black spots.

Another specimen from this region (4,476, Puget Sound) is similar, but the spots on primaries are conspicuous, as in examples of the typical style; indeed, except in the most extreme cases, these spots will always be found indicated, leading us to the unavoidable conclusion that the specimens in question represent merely the fuliginous condition of the common species; not the condition of *melanism*, but the peculiar darkened plumage characteristic of many birds of the northwest coast, the habitat of the present



bird; it should then be considered as rather a geographical race, co-equal to the *Falco gyrfalco*, var. *labrador*, *F. peregrinus*, var. *pealei*, and other forms, and not confounded with the individual condition of *melanism*, as seen in certain species of *Buteo*.

National Museum, 6.

LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

<i>Merula americana</i> .						
Sex	Wings.	Tail	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Secondary.
♂	7.35-7.70	5.25-5.60	.48-.50	1.30-1.45	1.20-	3
♀	8.25-8.50	5.70-5.80	.55-.60	1.50-1.60	1.35-1.40	3

Second quill longest; first quill equal to, a little shorter than, or a little longer than, the fourth.

Var **richardsoni**. RICHGAY.

#### RICHARDSON'S MERLIN.

*Falco asalon*, RICH. & SWAINSON, F. B. A. II, pl. XXV, 1831. — NUTT. MAN. ORN. II, 558. — COUES, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1866, p. 42 in text. *Falco Hagadoneus richardsoni*, RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Philad. Dec. 1870, 145. *Falco richardsoni*, COUES, Key, 1872, p. 214.

SP. CHAR. Adult male like the female and young? The known stages of plumage more like the adult female and young of var. *lithofalco* (*F. asalon*, ACCT.) than like var. *columbarius*.

*Adult male* (Smithsonian, No. 5,171, mouth of the Vermilion River, near the Missouri, October 25, 1856; Lieutenant Warren, Dr. Hayden). Upper plumage dull earth-brown, each feather grayish-umber centrally, and with a conspicuous black shaft-line. Head above approaching ashy-white anteriorly, the black shaft-streaks being very conspicuous. Secondaries, primary coverts, and primaries margined terminally with dull white; the primary coverts with two transverse series of pale ochraceous spots; outer webs of primaries with spots of the same, corresponding with those on the inner webs. Upper tail-coverts tipped, and spotted beneath the surface, with white. Tail clear drab, much lighter than the primaries, but growing darker terminally, having basally a slightly ashy cast; crossed with six sharply defined, perfectly continuous bands (the last terminal) of ashy-white. Head, frontally, laterally, and beneath, — a collar around the nape (interrupting the brown above), — and the entire lower parts, white, somewhat ochraceous, this most perceptible on the tibiae; cheeks and ear-coverts with sparse, fine hair-like streaks of black; nuchal collar, jugulum, breast, abdomen, sides, and flanks with a medial linear stripe of clear ochre-brown on each feather; these stripes broadest on the flanks; each stripe with a conspicuously black shaft-streak; tibiae and lower tail-coverts with fine shaft-streaks of brown, like the broader stripes of the other portions. Chin and throat, only, immaculate. Lining of the wing spotted with ochraceous-white and brown, in about equal amount, the former in spots approaching the shaft. Inner webs of primaries with transverse broad bars of pale ochraceous, — eight on the longest. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4, 1. Wing, 7.70; tail, 5.00; culmen, .50; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, 1.25; outer, .85; inner, .70; posterior, .50.

*Adult female* (58,983, Berthoud's Pass, Rocky Mountains, Colorado Territory; Dr. F. V. Hayden, James Stevenson). Differing in coloration from the male only in the points of detail. Ground-color of the upper parts clear grayish-drab, the feathers with conspicuously black shafts; all the feathers with pairs of rather indistinct rounded ochraceous

spots, these most conspicuous on the wings and scapulars. Secondaries crossed with three bands of deeper, more reddish ochraceous. Bands of the tail pure white. In other respects exactly as in the male. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4-1. Wing, 9.00; tail, 6.10; culmen, .55; tarsus, 1.40; middle toe, 1.51.

*Young adult* (10546 Fat River, Dec. 4th, July 20, 1865; Breeder, Gen. Alfred Sully, U. S. A., S. M. Rothhammer). Differing from the adult only in minute details. Upper surface with the rusty borders of the feathers more washed over the general surface; the rusty-ochraceous forms the ground-color of the head, — paler anteriorly, where the black shaft-streaks are very conspicuous; spots on the primary coverts and primaries deep reddish-ochraceous; tail-bands broader than in the adult, and more reddish; the terminal one twice as broad as the rest (.40 of an inch), and almost cream-color in tint. Beneath pale ochraceous, this deepest on the breast and sides; markings as in the adult, but anal region and lower tail-coverts immaculate; the shaft-streaks on the tibiæ, also, scarcely discernible. Wing, 7.00; tail, 4.60.

HAB. Interior regions of North America, between the Mississippi Valley and the Rocky Mountains, from Texas to the Arctic regions.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 10; Museum Comp. Zool., 2; R. Ridgway, 3. Total, 15.

## Measurements.

Sex	Wing	Tail	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	7.75-8.60	5.70-6.00	.50-.60	1.42-1.55	1.20-1.30	8
♀	8.50-9.00	6.00-6.30	.55-.58	1.55-1.65	1.35-1.40	7

Since originally describing this bird, I have seen additional examples, and still consider it as an easily recognized race, not at all difficult to distinguish from *columbarius*. Now, however, I incline strongly to the theory that it represents merely the light form of the central prairie regions, of the common species; since its characters seem to be so analogous to those of the races of *Buteo borealis* and *Bubo virginianus* of the same country. It is doubtful whether some very light-colored adult males, supposed to belong to *columbarius*, as restricted, should not in reality be referred to this race, as the adult plumage of the male. But having seen no adult males from the region inhabited by the present bird obtained in the breeding-season, I am still in doubt whether the present form ever assumes the blue plumage.

As regards the climatic or regional modifications experienced by the *Falco lithofalco* on the American continent, the following summary of facts expresses my present views upon the subject. First: examples identical in all respects, or at least presenting no variations beyond those of an individual character, may be found from very widely separated localities; but the theory of explanation is, that individuals of one race may become scattered during their migrations, or wander off from their breeding-places. Second: the Atlantic region, the region of the plains, and the region of the north-west coast, have each a peculiar race, characterized by features which are also distinctive of races of other birds of the same region, namely, very dark — the dark tints intensified, and their area extended — in the north-

west coast region; very light — the light markings extended and multiplied — in the middle region; and intermediate in the Atlantic region.

**HABITS.** The distribution of the well known Pigeon Hawk is very nearly coextensive with the whole of North America. It is found in the breeding-season as far to the north as Fort Anderson, on the Anderson and McKenzie rivers, ranging even to the Arctic coast. Specimens were taken by Mr. Ross at Lapierre House and at Fort Good Hope. Several specimens were taken by Mr. Dall at Nulato, where, he states, it is found all the year round. They were also taken by Bischoff at Kodiak. During the breeding-season it is found as far south as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the northern portions of Maine, and probably Vermont and New York. It is abundant on the Pacific coast.

In the winter months it is to be met with throughout the more temperate portions of North America, in Mexico, Central America, and Northern South America. Dr. Woodhouse mentions finding this species very abundant especially among the wooded banks of watercourses throughout Texas, New Mexico, and the Indian Territory.

Mr. March states that this Hawk is a permanent resident in the island of Jamaica, more frequently found among the hills than on the plains, and has been known to breed there. It is a visitant of Cuba. Dr. Cooper thinks they are not very common in Washington Territory, though, as they are found there throughout the summer, they undoubtedly breed there. In August, 1855, Dr. Cooper shot one of a small family of young that had but recently left their nest. They migrate southward in winter, and are abundant in California in October and November.

Dr. Suckley found them abundant about Fort Steilacoom early in August. Near Puget Sound this species is thought to breed in the recesses of the Cascade Mountains, only coming down upon the open plains late in the summer. Dr. Newberry found it paired and nesting about the Klamath Lakes, and states that it also occupies all the region south of the Columbia, in Oregon. Mr. Dresser states that he found this Falcon common about Bexar and the adjoining counties during the entire year, and that they occasionally breed near the Medina River. I have been unable to find any satisfactory evidence that this Hawk ever breeds in any part of Massachusetts, or anywhere south of the 44th parallel in the Eastern States, except, perhaps, in mountainous regions.

This Hawk is remarkable for its rapid flight, and its courage and its enterprise in attacking birds as large as or even larger than itself, though generally it only preys upon smaller birds, such as Grakles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Robins, and Pigeons. Dr. Cooper states that having been attracted by an unusual screaming of some bird close to the house, he was surprised to find that one of these Hawks had just seized upon a Flicker, a bird as large as itself, the weight of which had brought it to the ground, and which it continued to hold in its claws even after it had been mortally wounded.

Dr. Heermann once found one of these birds just preparing to feed on a large and plump California Partridge.

In Tamaulipas, Mexico, where Lieutenant Couch found it quite common, he speaks of it as being very quiet, flying but little, and generally watching for its quarry from the limb of a dry tree. Mr. Audubon makes no mention of any peculiarities of habits. Mr. Nuttall was evidently unfamiliar with it, stating it to be unknown in New England, and a resident of the Southern States only.

In Nova Scotia, Mr. Downes speaks of it as common, breeding in all the wooded parts of the country. It is said to be not troublesome to the farmer, but to feed upon the smaller birds. He mentions that once, on his voyage to Boston, one of these birds flew aboard and allowed itself to be captured, and was kept alive and fed readily, but soon after escaped.

Mr. B. R. Ross, in his notes on the birds and nests obtained by him in the country about Fort Resolution, Lapierre House, and Good Hope, mentions this bird as the most common of the true Falcons in that district, where it ranges to the Arctic coast. Its nest is said to be composed of sticks, grass, and moss, and to be built generally in a thick tree, at no great elevation. The eggs, he adds, are from five to seven in number, 1.60 inches in length by 1.20 in breadth. Their ground-color he describes as a light reddish-buff, clouded with deep chocolate and reddish-brown blotches, more thickly spread at the larger end of the egg, where the under tint is almost entirely concealed by them. This description is given from three eggs procured with their parent at Fort Resolution.

From Mr. MacFarlane's notes, made from his observations in the Anderson River country, we gather that one nest was found on the ledge of a cliff of shaly mud on the banks of the Anderson River; another nest was on a pine-tree, eight or nine feet from the ground, and composed of a few dry willow-twigs and some half-decayed hay, etc. It was within two hundred yards of the river-bank. A third nest was in the midst of a small bushy branch of a pine-tree, and was ten feet from the ground. It was composed of coarse hay, lined with some of a finer quality, but was far from being well arranged. Mr. MacFarlane was confident that it had never been used before by a Crow or by any other bird. The oviduct of the female contained an egg ready to be laid. It was colored like the others, but the shell was still soft, and adhered to the fingers on being touched. In another instance the eggs were found on a ledge of shale in a cliff on the bank, without anything under them in the way of lining. He adds that they are even more abundant along the banks of the McKenzie than on the Anderson River.

Mr. MacFarlane narrates that on the 25th of May an Indian in his employ found a nest placed in the midst of a pine branch, six feet from the ground, loosely made of a few dry sticks and a small quantity of coarse hay. It then contained two eggs. Both parents were seen, but when fired at were missed. On the 31st he revisited the nest, which still contained only two



eggs, and again missed the birds. He again went to the nest, several days after, to secure the parents, and was much surprised to find that the eggs were gone. His first supposition was that some other person had taken them, but, after looking carefully about, he perceived both birds at a short distance; and this caused him to institute a search, which soon resulted in his finding that the eggs had been removed by them to the face of a muddy bank at least forty yards distant from the original nest. A few decayed leaves had been placed under them, but nothing else in the way of protection. A third egg had been added since his previous examination. These facts Mr. MacFarlane carefully investigated, and vouches for their entire accuracy.

Another nest, containing four eggs, was on the ledge of a shaly cliff, and was composed of a very few decayed leaves placed under the eggs.

Mr. R. Kennicott found a nest, June 2, 1860, in which incubation had already commenced. It was about a foot in diameter, was built against the trunk of a poplar, and its base was composed of sticks, the upper parts consisting of mosses and fragments of bark.

Mr. Audubon mentions finding three nests of this bird in Labrador, in each of which there were five eggs. These nests were placed on the top branches of the low firs peculiar to that country, composed of sticks, and slightly lined with moss and a few feathers. He describes the eggs as 1.75 inches long, and 1.25 broad, with a dull yellowish-brown ground-color, thickly clouded with irregular blotches of dark reddish-brown. One was found in the beginning of July, just ready to hatch. The young are at first covered with a yellowish down. The old birds are said to evince great concern respecting their eggs or young, remaining about them and manifesting all the tokens of anger and vexation of the most courageous species. A nest of this Hawk (S. I. 7,127) was taken at St. Stephen, N. B., by Mr. W. F. Hall; and another (S. I. 15,546) in the Wahsatch Mountains, by Mr. Ricksecker. The latter possibly belonged to the var. *richardsoni*.

The nest of this bird found in Jamaica by Mr. March was constructed on a lofty tree, screened by thick foliage, and was a mere platform of sticks and grass, matted with soft materials, such as leaves and grasses. It contained four eggs, described as "round-oval or spherical" in shape, measuring "1.38 by 1.13 inches, of a dull clayish-white, marked with sepia and burnt umber, confluent dashes and splashes, irregularly distributed, principally about the middle and the larger end." Four others, taken from a nest in the St. Johns Mountains, were oblong-oval, about the same size and nearly covered with chocolate and umber blotches. Mr. March thinks they belong to different species.

Mr. Hutchins, in his notes on the birds of Hudson's Bay, states that this species nests on rocks or in hollow trees; that the nest consists of sticks and grass, lined with feathers; and describes the eggs as white, thinly marked with red spots. In the oviduct of a Hawk which Dr. Richardson gives as

*Falco asalon*, were found "several full-sized white eggs, clouded at one end by a few bronze-colored spots." A nest was found by Mr. Cheney at Grand Menan, from which he shot what he presumed to be the parent bird of this species. Its four eggs agreed with the descriptions given by Hutchins and Richardson much more nearly than with the eggs of this species. The eggs found by Mr. Cheney may have been very small eggs of *A. cooperi*, in which case the presence of the *columbarius* on the nest cannot be so easily explained.

Three eggs, two from Anderson River and one from Great Slave Lake, range from 1.53 to 1.60 inches in length, and from 1.20 to 1.22 in breadth, their average measurements being 1.56 by 1.21. They have a ground-color of a rich reddish-cream, very generally covered with blotches and finer markings of reddish-brown, deepening in places almost into blackness, and varying greatly in the depth of its shading, with a few lines of black. In one the red-brown is largely replaced by very fine markings of a yellowish sepia-brown, so generally diffused as to conceal the ground and give to it the appearance of a light buff. Mr. Ridgway, after a careful analysis of the varying markings and sizes of twenty-one eggs, has kindly given the following:—

"Extremes of twenty-one eggs (mainly from Forts Yukon, Anderson, Resolution, and MacKenzie rivers): largest (10,687, Yukon, June),  $1.75 \times 1.28$ ; smallest (8,808, Anderson River, June),  $1.55 \times 1.20$ . The ground-color varies from creamy-white to deep purplish-rufous, there being one egg (4,090, Great Slave Lake, June 6, 1860) entirely and uniformly of the latter color; the lightest egg (normally marked, 2,663, Saskatchewan) is creamy-white, thickly sprinkled with dilute and deep shades of sepia-brown, thickly on large end, and sparsely, as well as more finely, on the smaller end. The markings vary in color from dilute indian-red to blackish-chestnut.

"*H. richardsoni* is larger than *columbarius*, and probably has a larger egg. There are no eggs such as Richardson describes in the series of *columbarius* in the Smithsonian Collection."

The var. *richardsoni* was recognized by Richardson as distinct from the more common *columbarius*; and a single specimen, killed at Carlton House, and submitted to Swainson, was pronounced by him, beyond doubt, identical with the common Merlin of Europe. Other specimens have since been procured, and are now in the Smithsonian Collection. They are recognized by Mr. Ridgway as identical with Richardson's bird, but quite distinct from the *Æsalon* of authors. He has named the species in honor of its first discoverer. Of its history and habits little is known. A single pair were seen by Richardson in the neighborhood of Carlton House, in May, 1827, and the female was shot. In the oviduct there were several full-sized white eggs, clouded at one end with a few bronze-colored spots. Another specimen, probably also a female, was shot at the Sault St. Marie, between Lakes Huron and Superior, but this was not preserved.

Mr. Hutchins, in his notes on the Hudson's Bay birds, states that the Pigeon Hawk "makes its nest on the rocks and in hollow trees, of sticks and grass, lined with feathers, laying from two to four white eggs, thinly marked with red spots." As Hutchins has been found to be generally quite accurate in his statements, and as this description does not at all apply either to the nest or the eggs of the *columbarius*, it is quite possible that he may have mistaken this species for the Pigeon Hawk, and that this description of eggs and nests belongs not to *columbarius*, but to *richardsoni*.

SUBGENUS **RHYNCHOFALCO**, RIDGWAY.

Species.

**F. femoralis.** Wing, 9.30–11.60; tail, 6.30–8.80; culmen, .60–.80; tarsus, 1.62–2.00; middle toe, 1.35–1.70. Second and third quills longest; first equal to or shorter than fourth. *Adult* (sexes similar). Above uniform plumbeous, the secondaries broadly tipped with whitish. Tail darker terminally, crossed by about eight narrow, continuous bands of white, and tipped with the same. A broad postocular stripe, middle area of



the auriculars, and entire throat and jugulum, white, unvariegated; the latter with a semicircular outline posteriorly, and the former changing to orange-rufous on the occiput, where the stripes of the two sides are confluent. Sides entirely uniform blackish (confluent on the middle of the abdomen), with narrow bars of white; posterior lower parts immaculate light ochraceous. *Young* similar, but the jugulum with longitudinal stripes of blackish. *Hab.* Whole of Tropical America, exclusive of the West Indies, north to the southern border of the United States.

**Falco (Rhynchofalco) femoralis, TEMMINCK.****APLOMADO FALCON.**

*Falco femoralis*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 121, 343, 1824. — SPIN, Av. Braz. I, 18 (quot. Pl. Cl. 121), 1824. — VIG. Zool. Journ. I, 339. — STIMP. Zool. XIII, pt. 2, p. 50, 1826. — LESS. Man. Orn. I, 79, 1828; Tr. Orn. p. 89, 1831. — CUV. Reg. An. (ed. 2), I, 322, 1817. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, 212, 1837. — NORDM. Ern. Reis. um die Erde, Atl. p. 16. — BRIDG. Proc. Zool. Soc. pt. 11, p. 109; Ann. Nat. Hist. XIII, 499. — D'ORB. Voy. Am. Merid. Av. p. 116, 1835. — TSCHUDI, Consp. Av. Wieg. Arch. 1844, p. 266; Faun. Per. p. 108, 1844. — CASS. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Philad. 1855, p. 178. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 88, 1855. — BREWER, Oölogy, 1857, 14, pl. iii, f. 22. *Hypotriorchis femoralis*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 13, 1844; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 56, 1844. — HARTL. Syst. Ind. Azar. p. 3, 1847. — CASS. B. N. Am. p. 11, 1858. — COUES, Pr. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. 7, 1866. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 21, 1869. *Falco fuscocærulescens*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. XI, 90, 1819. *Falco cyanoescus*, VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1234 (No. 40, Azara, juv. teste, Hartl.). *Falco thoracicus*, LICHTE. Verz. Doubl. p. 62, 1823.

**Sp. CHAR.** *Adult* (sexes similar). Above uniform plumbeous, secondaries broadly whitish at ends; tail with continuous narrow bands of white. A postocular, broad stripe (changing to reddish on nape, where the two of opposite sides are confluent), middle area of auriculars, and entire throat and jugulum, white, unvariegated. Sides entirely uniform blackish (confluent on middle of abdomen), with narrow bars of white; posterior lower parts light ochraceous, immaculate. ♂. Wing, 9.90; tail, 6.70; tarsus, 1.62; middle toe, 1.45. ♀. Wing, 11.30; tail, 7.80; tarsus, 1.70; middle toe, 1.55.

*Young.* Similar to the adult, but with broad longitudinal stripes of blackish on the breast.

*Adult male* (No. 30,896, Mirador, E. Mexico; Dr. C. Sartorius). Above brownish-slate, becoming gradually darker anteriorly, the head above being pure dark plumbeous; on the rump and upper tail-coverts the tint inclines to fine cinereous. Secondaries passing very conspicuously into white terminally; primaries plumbeous-dusky, their inner webs with (the longest with twelve) very regular, narrow, transverse bars of white (the outer web plain). Lining of the wing white (becoming more ochraceous toward the edge); under coverts barred and serrated with dusky, the white, however, predominating. Tail black, basally with a perceptible plumbeous cast; crossed with eight narrow, transverse bands of white, — the first two of which are concealed by the coverts, the last terminal and about .27 of an inch in width; the rest are narrower, diminishing in width as they approach the base. Upper tail-coverts bordered terminally with ashy-white, the longer with one or two transverse bars of the same. Forehead (narrowly) white, this extending down across the lores to the angle of the mouth; a broad, conspicuous supraoral stripe, originating above the middle of the eye, and running back above the ear-coverts to the occiput (where the two of opposite sides are confluent), white, more fulvous-orange on the occiput; a broad dark plumbeous stripe running from the posterior angle of the eye back over upper edge of ear-coverts, and continuing (broadly) down the side of the neck; another, but much smaller one, of similar color, starting at lower border of bare suborbital space, passing downward across the cheeks, forming a "mustache," leaving the middle area of the ear-coverts, the chin, throat, and whole breast, white, the pectoral portion defined with a semicircular outline posteriorly. Broad area covering the sides of the breast, sides, and flanks (meeting rather narrowly across the upper part of the abdomen), black, with narrow, rather indistinct, transverse bars of white. Femorals, tibiae, abdomen, anal region, and lower tail-coverts fine ochra-



ceous-rufous, palest posteriorly, the whole region immaculate. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4-1, 5. Wing, 9.90; tail, 6.70; tarsus, 1.62; middle toe, 1.45.

*Adult ♀* (42,076, Mirador; Sartorius). Similar to the male in almost every respect. Plumbeous above rather darker and more uniform, although the difference is scarcely perceptible. Secondaries more broadly tipped with white, and upper tail-coverts more conspicuously barred with the same. White bars of the black areas beneath scarcely observable. Tail with eight white bars, as in the male; longest primary with fourteen white bars on inner web of longest. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4-5=1. Wing, 11.30; tail, 7.80; tarsus, 1.70; middle toe, 1.55.

*Imm. ♂ (cateuchote step)*. ♂ (37,334, Mazatlan, W. Mexico; Col. A. J. Grayson). Plumbeous above darker and more brownish, uniform from rump to head, the former strongly tinged with rusty, this bordering the feathers. Tail darker and more brownish; white bars ten in number, instead of eight, narrower, and tinged with brownish; longest primary with thirteen bars of white on inner web. Lining of the wing black, leaving only a broad ochraceous stripe along the edge; feathers of the black portion with small circular white spots along their edges. Breast strongly tinged with ochraceous, and with large longitudinal blotches of black of cuneate form, and so crowded as to give almost the predominating color; the black patches lack entirely the white bars. Wing-formula, 3=2-4-1-5. Wing, 10.00; tail, 7.20.

♀ (55,019, Mazatlan, Grayson). Similar to the last, but lacking the rusty tinge on the rump; tail with eight white bars, as in the adult; pectoral stripes narrower and less numerous than in the preceding, and white bars distinguishable on the black areas. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4-1-5. Wing, 11.30; tail, 8.20.

*b (first plumage)*. ♂ (45,693 and 49,508, Buenos Ayres, Conchitas; William H. Hudson). Similar to immature male (37,334). Above dull umber-drab, darker on the head; feathers of back, scapular, rump, and wings fading on edges; rump much tinged with rusty, this bordering the feathers. Tail with nine very obsolete, narrow, dull white bars, these not touching the edge of the feather on either web. Longest primary with ten transverse white bars on inner web. Beneath pale ochraceous, almost as deep anteriorly as posteriorly; dark areas restricted to a large patch on each side, and dull dark brown (very similar to the wings), instead of black, and scarcely varied; breast and upper part of abdomen (between the blackish lateral patches) with large longitudinal cuneate blotches of the same. "Winter visitor."

*HAB.* Whole of South America; northward through Central America and Mexico, across the Rio Grande, into Texas and New Mexico.

*Localities:* Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I, 219); Cathagena (CASSIN, Pr. An. N. S. 1860, 132); La Plata (BURM. Reise, 437); Mexiana (SCL. & SALV. 1867, 590); Brazil (PELZ. O. Bras. I, 4); Buenos Ayres (SCL. & SALV. 1868, 143); Chile (PHILIPPI); W. Peru (SCL. & SALV. 1858, 570; 1869, 155); Venezuela (SCL. & SALV. 1869, 252).

A specimen from Paraguay (58,738, ♂ ? Capt. T. J. Page, U. S. N.) has the slaty above lighter than in the Mirador male, approaching to ash. The white bars on the black side-patches are very numerous and regular; the white of the forehead is more sharply defined, and the deep rufescent-ochre of the posterior portion of the postocular stripe is even deeper than that of the tibiae, etc.; the breast has a few narrow blackish streaks. The bars on wings and tail, however, are as in Mexican examples. This specimen probably denotes greater age than any other in the series.

Another specimen (29,809, ♀, Mirador), perhaps very young, is rather different from the others in the coloration of the lower parts; the rufous of

the posterior portions is very deep, and the anterior light places are much tinged with ochraceous, the supraloral stripe being tinged throughout with the same; across the breast is a series of small tear-shaped spots of black, forming an imperfect band; there are, however, no other differences.

Nos. 29,520 (♀, Chile, Berlin Museum) and 29,521 (♂, Venezuela) differ from the rest only in a deeper tinge of ochraceous anteriorly beneath, the occipital stripes being very red.

No. 18,497 (♂, from the Rio Pecos, Texas) is in the plumage described as that of the young male, having the rusty tinge on rump, and more numerous bands on tail; the breast is almost as deeply ochraceous as the tibiae, and the broad black patches of the sides scarcely meet across the abdomen, being there broken into streaks.



*Falco femoralis*

A female, nearly adult, from Buenos Ayres (45,692, Conchitas; W. H. Hudson), has the feathers of the upper parts faintly edged with white; the rump and upper tail-coverts conspicuously barred with the same. The head above is decidedly more bluish than in northern examples, each feather with a shaft-line of black. The tail has only seven white bars, — these, however, very sharply defined, and very pure white; the longest primary has eleven white bars. The lower plumage is similar to that of the immature male from the Rio Pecos, Texas (No. 18,497). This specimen has the second and third quills equal.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 11; Boston Society, 5; Philadelphia Academy, 2; New York Museum, 1; G. N. Lawrence, 1; R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 25.

#### Measurements.

	Wing	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	9.20 - 10.70	6.30 - 8.00	.60 - .68	1.70 - 1.85	1.35 - 1.50	12
♀	11.00 - 11.60	7.80 - 8.80	.71 - .80	1.80 - 2.00	1.55 - 1.70	9

**HABITS.** Only two specimens of this Hawk have been taken within the limits of the United States. One was obtained by Dr. Heermann on the vast plains of New Mexico, near the United States boundary-line. It appeared to be flying over the prairies in search of small birds and mice, at

times hovering in the manner of the common Sparrow Hawk (*Tomananulus sparverius*). It appears to be resident throughout a large part of Mexico, and in Central and South America. The other is from the Rio Pecos of Texas, collected by Dr. W. W. Anderson.

Mr. Darwin, in his Zoölogy of the Voyage of the Beagle, mentions obtaining one specimen in a small valley on the plains of Patagonia, at Port Desire, in latitude 47° 44' south. M. D'Orbigny supposed latitude 34° to be the extreme southern limit of the species. Lieutenant Gilliss brought specimens from Chile.

Mr. Darwin states that the *F. femoralis* nests in low bushes, this corresponding with the observations of Mr. Bishop. He found the female sitting on her eggs in the beginning of January. According to M. D'Orbigny, it prefers a dry, open country with scattered bushes, which Mr. Darwin confirms. Mr. Bishop informs me that he met with this Hawk in the greatest abundance upon those vast plains of South America known as the Pampas, in which no trees except the ombû are found, and that it there nests exclusively on the tops of low bushes, hardly more than a foot or two from the ground. The bird was not at all shy, like most Hawks, but was easily approached so nearly as to be readily recognized.

Mr. Bridges states, in the Proceedings of the London Zoölogical Society (1843, p. 109), that the *H. femoralis* is trained in some parts of South America for the pursuit of smaller gallinaceous birds, and that it is highly esteemed by the Chilian falconers. It very soon becomes quite docile, and will even follow its master within a few weeks of its capture.

I am indebted to Mr. N. H. Bishop for specimens of the eggs of this Hawk obtained by him on the Pampas. The nest contained but two, and was built on the top of a low bush or stunted tree, hardly two feet from the ground. It was constructed, with some pains and elaboration, of withered grasses and dry leaves.

The eggs measure, one 1.81 inches in length by 1.69 in breadth, the other 1.78 by 1.63. This does not materially vary from the measurement given by Darwin. The ground-color of the egg is white. This, however, is so thickly and so generally studded with fine brown markings, that the white ground to the eye has a rusty appearance, and its real hue is hardly distinguishable. Over the entire surface of the egg is distributed an infinite number of fine dottings, of a color most nearly approaching a raw terra-sienna brown. Over this again are larger blotches, lines, and splashes of a handsome shade of vandyke-brown. In one egg these larger markings are much more frequent than in the other. The latter is chiefly marked with the finer rusty dottings, and has a more dingy appearance.

SUBGENUS **TINNUNCULUS**, Vieillot.

*Tinnunculus*, Vieill. 1807. (Type, *Falco tinnunculus*, LINN. *Tinnunculus abundantius*, GILL.)

? *Tichonotus*, KAUZ, 1844. (Type, *Falco tichonotus*, NAUM.)

*Pedionotus*, KAUZ, 1844. (Type, *Falco sparverius*, LINN.)

The characters of this subgenus have been sufficiently defined in the diagnosis on page 1427, so that it will be necessary for me only to add a few less important ones.

The subgenus *Tinnunculus* is one which is well characterized by peculiarities of manners and habits as well as by features of structure. The species are the most arboreal of the Falcons, and their curious habit of poising

53198, ♀.

53198, ♀.

53198, ♀.

53198, ♀.

*Tinnunculus sparverius*.

in a fixed position as they hover over some object of food which they are watching is probably peculiar to them, and has been remarked of the Old World as well as of the American species. In their structure they are the most aberrant members of the subfamily belonging to the Northern Hemisphere and in their weak bill and feet, lengthened tarsi, obtusely tipped quills, more rounded wings, and more lengthened tail, exhibit a decided step toward *Hieracidea*, an Australian genus which is almost exactly intermediate in all the characters of its external structure between the true Falcons and the South American genus *Milvago*, of the Polyborine group.

The subgenus is most largely developed in the Old World, where are found about a dozen nominal species, of which perhaps one half must be



reduced to the rank of geographical races. America possesses three species, two of which are restricted to the West India islands, while the other extends over the entire continent.

There is no reason whatever for separating the American species from those of the Old World, and the subgenus *Pacilornis*, established upon these by Kaup, is not tenable.

Since the publication of my first paper upon the American forms of *Tinnunculus*,<sup>1</sup> a large amount of additional material has fallen under my observation; the total number of examples critically examined and compared together amounting to over three hundred and fifty skins of which I have kept a record, besides many others which have come casually to my notice. This abundant material merely confirms the views I first expressed, in the paper alluded to, regarding the number and definition of the forms; their comparative relation to each other being the only respect in which I have reason to modify my arrangement.

In my first paper on the American *Tinnunculi*, three distinct species were recognized; one (*sparverius*) belonging to the whole of Continental America and the Lesser Antilles, one (*leucophrys*, Ridgway) to Cuba and Hayti, and one (*sparveroides*, Vig.) peculiar to Cuba. The first is one modified in different climatic regions into several geographical races, as follows: Var. *sparverius*, L., North and Middle America, exclusive of the gulf and Caribbean coast region; var. *isabellinus*, Swains., the eastern coast region of Tropical America, from Guiana to Florida; var. *dominicensis*, Gmel. (Lesser Antilles); var. *australis*, Ridgw. (South America in general); and var. *cinnamominus*, Swains. (Chile and Western Brazil). That each of these races is well characterized, the evidence of a series abundantly sufficient to determine this point enables me to assert without reserve; for I find in each instance that the characters diagnosed in my synopsis hold good as well with a large series as with a few specimens.

The following synopsis, essentially the same as that before published, may, to most persons, explain satisfactorily my reasons for recognizing so many races of *T. sparverius*, — a proceeding which, I am sorry to say, does not meet with favor with all ornithologists.<sup>2</sup> Though there are at the present time three well-characterized or permanently differentiated species of *Tinnunculus* on the American continent, yet it is, to my mind, certain that these have all descended from a common ancestral stock, for evidence in proof of this is found in many specimens which I consider at least strongly "suggestive" of this fact; some specimens of var. *isabellinus* from Florida having blue feathers interspersed over the rump, thereby showing an approximation toward the uniformly blue upper surface of the adult male of *T. sparveroides* of the neighboring island of Cuba; while in the latter bird the embryonic plumage of the male is very similar to the permanent condition of the male of *sparverius*.

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Dec., 1870, pp. 147-149.

<sup>2</sup> See London Ibis.

## Synopsis of the American Species.

**A.** Back always entirely pure white, or with a black bar. Lower parts white, or only tinged with ochraceous; front or subocular distinctly washed.

*a.* Inner webs of primaries barred entirely across, with white and dusky; "mustache" across the cheeks conspicuous; no conspicuous superciliary stripe of white.

1. ***T. sparverius*.<sup>1</sup>** Crown bluish, with or without a patch of rufous. ♂. Vertex, upper part of head slaty, or a little black; scapulars, neck, rump, and tail reddish-rufous; primaries, basal half of the secondaries, and tail-band alternating across the tail, black. ♀. Tail black, except that of the head, replaced by rufous, which is everywhere barred with blackish, and of a less reddish cast. *Hab.* Entire continent of America, also Lesser Antilles, north to St. Thomas.

*b.* Inner webs of primaries white, merely serrated along the shaft with dusky; "mustache" obsolete or wanting; a conspicuous superciliary stripe of white.

2. ***T. leucophrys*.<sup>2</sup>** Similar to *sparverius*, except as characterized above. *Hab.* Cuba and Hayti.

<sup>1</sup> A synopsis of the geographical races of *T. sparverius* comes after the remarks on that species, page 1486.

<sup>2</sup> *Falco Tinnunculus leucophrys*, *Tinnunculus sparverius* (not of Vigors', LAWRENCE, Ann. Lyc. N. Y. 1860, p. 1, 4th part; light individuals. *Falco sparverius* (not of Linné's, BOIE, R. Sagra, Hist. Nat. Cuba, p. 25, probably). Vig. Zool. Journ. 1, 339; Ill. 435. *Tinnunculus leucophrys*, RIDGWAY, Phil. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phil. 1870, 147. *Hab.* Cuba and Hayti.

*Adult* ♂ (34,244, Remedios, Cuba, December 14, 1863; N. H. Bishop). Head above pure, fine bluish-ash, becoming (broadly) white on forehead; the feathers with delicate shaft-lines of black. Nape, back, scapulars, rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail rich purplish-rufous (almost exactly as in *sparverius*; no bars on dorsal region, except a very few across ends of larger posterior scapulars. Terminal band of tail *light rufous*, .30 in width; subterminal zone of black, very regular, .55 in width; lateral feather, with outer web and end of inner, reddish-white, the black subterminal band crossing the inner web only; inner web anterior to this, continuous rufous; shafts of tail-feathers rufous. Wings fine bluish-ash, like the crown; middle and lower coverts with a very few elliptical, *longitudinal* specks or touches of black on the shafts; secondaries passing terminally into white, their exposed basal half pure black; primaries pure black, exposed edges of inner webs paler. Whole under surface of wings immaculate pure white, with a faint delicate reddish tinge; inner webs of primaries serrated along the shaft with dusky. Forehead and superciliary stripe (broadly and sharply defined against the bluish of the crown), whole side of the head (including lores and ear-coverts), and entire lower parts, continuous, *immaculate*, pure white, with a delicate orange tinge, except anteriorly. The "mustache" is but just indicated by some blackish touches, and in some individuals it is wanting entirely, while in all it is very restricted in width; the other black markings of the head are, however, as in *sparverius*. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4, 1. Wing, 7.00; tail, 5.00; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, .90; culmen, .46. A specimen in Mr. Lawrence's collection, which with others he has kindly lent me for examination, is in beautifully high plumage. It differs from the type in having the white of the lower parts tinged, or rather *stained*, with a beautiful, delicate rufous, or almost a *salmon-orange*. The terminal band of the tail also inclines decidedly to this color, while the white of the under surface of the wing (particularly towards ends of secondaries and primaries) is tinged with a more pinkish shade of the same. Another of Mr. Lawrence's specimens differs in the clearer white beneath (that is, with less reddish tinge, — the pureness and continuity does not vary), which extends entirely around the neck, giving a sharper definition to the black pattern. The "mustache," however, is almost entirely absent; the black transverse spots on larger posterior scapulars are rather more conspicuous, and the terminal band of the tail is more purely white.

♀ (31,984, Cuba, J. Ackhurst). Generally similar to *sparverius*, but rufous brighter, the bars

**B.** Back rufous only. ♀. Lower part of upper tail-feathers black. Head and mustache dusky.

3. **T. sparveroides.**<sup>1</sup> ♂. Above, except the tail, entirely dark plumbeous, with a blackish nuchal collar; primaries and edges and sub-terminal portion of tail-feathers, black. Beneath deep rufous (like the black of *sparverius* and *leucophrys*, with a wash of plumbeous above

narrower and less numerous, the top of upper part of tail, and inner band of tail-feathers black, with thin black bars, the dusky becoming less distinct toward the apex; the others about .16; tip of tail scarcely paler than base; lateral feather with outer web edged broadly with paler or ochraceous white, rufous next the shaft, immaculate; inner web with only three or four very narrow bars on terminal half. Head as in the male, but vertex considerably tinged with rufous. Whole lower parts, including frontal and lateral regions of the head, continuous pure white; breast with a very faint yellowish tinge; side of the breast and sides with a few scattered minute elliptical longitudinal flakes of rusty, — more black on the shaft. Whole under surface of the wing white, as in the male. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4, 1. Wing, 7.00; tail, 4.70; tarsus, 1.40; middle toe, .90; culmen, .51. A Cuban female belonging to Mr. Lawrence is exactly similar. One in the S. I. Collection, from Hayti (42,420, Port au Prince, June 5, 1860; A. C. Younglove), differs only in less purely black bars, and in utter absence of the mustache. A male from the same locality (43,418) is like it in the last respect.

*Juv.* ♀ (34,235, Remedios, Cuba, December, 1864; N. H. Bishop). Similar to the adult described, but jugular tinged with soft pinkish-rufous, and the black bars on upper parts — especially on wings — with a plumbeous cast.

In regard to this form, we must either consider that it is a distinct species, or assume that it is a light phase of a Cuban species, of which *T. sparveroides* may be the dark or rufescent form; knowing, as we do, that the differences between *leucophrys* and *sparveroides* depend on neither sex, age, nor season, then the only way to account for the two phases is to consider that the Cuban bird (if we deny it the rank of a species) presents a very peculiar example of dimorphism. I have never yet seen a specimen which was not decidedly one or the other. An adult male from Cuba is immaculate white beneath, the breast very strongly tinged with deep rufous, the mustache wholly absent. Two females have narrow brown streaks on the breast, the mustache nearly obsolete; the dusky bars on primaries and tail much narrower.

*List of Specimens examined.* — Nat. Mus., 7; Post. Soc., 3; Philad. Acad., 2; G. N. Lawrence, 4. Total, 16.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 6.80-7.30; tail, 4.90-5.20; culmen, .45; tarsus, 1.45; middle toe, .90; specimens, 4. ♀, Wing, 7.10-7.60; tail, 4.90-5.60; culmen, .50-.52; tarsus, 1.40; middle toe, .91; specimens, 6.

<sup>1</sup> *Falco* (*Tinnunculus*) *sparveroides*. *Falco sparverius*, VIGORS, Zool. Journ. III, 436, 1827; *Isis*, 1830, p. 1166. — D'ORB. (R. de la Sagra), Hist. Cuba, 1840, p. 30, pl. i. *Tinnunculus sparveroides*, GRAY, Gen. B. vol. sp. 12, 1844. — FRASER, Zool. Typ. pl. xxx. — BONAP. Conspect. Av. p. 27. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 100, 1855. — LAW. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. 1860, p. 1 (in part dark specimens). — RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Phil. Dec. 1870, 149. *Tinnunculus sparverius* (not of GMEL.), GRAY, Hand List, I, 24, 1869. — GRUNDLACH, Repert. Cuba, I, 225, 1865. ? *Hypotriorchis ferrugineus*, SATS. Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1859, p. 117, pl. iii.

*Hab.* Cuba (only).

*Adult* ♂ (31,985, Cuba; J. Ackhurst). Above, continuously dark plumbeous, from bill to the tail, the shafts of the feathers black (these streaks most noticeable on the head above), the larger scapulars and interscapulars darker centrally, forming indistinct or obscure spots; this plumbeous covers the whole neck laterally, and the middle area of the ear-coverts. An obsolete "mustache" running from the lores downward across the cheeks, a spot across ends of the ear-coverts connected with that on the neck, and obsolete though continuous collar round the nape, inclining to black. Primaries wholly black, basal third of secondaries the same. (No spots on wings.) Tail deep chestnut, shafts of feathers black; terminal band dull slate; subterminal black zone about .60 of an inch in width, but instead of running sharply across, as in all the varieties of *sparverius* and in *leucophrys*, the black runs along the edge of each feather, bor-

the jugulum; throat grayish-white. Inner webs of primaries slaty, with transverse cloudings of darker. ♀. Differing from that of the above species in dark rufous lower parts and dusky, mottled inner webs of primaries. Second and third quills longest; first shorter than or equal to fourth. *Hab.* Cuba (only?).

The distinguishing characters of *F. sparverius* having been given in the foregoing synopsis, I will here consider this species in regard to the modifications it experiences in the different regions of its geographical distribution.

The whole of continental America, from the Arctic regions to almost the extreme of South America, and from ocean to ocean, is inhabited, so far as known, by but this one species of *Tinnunculus*. But in different portions of this vast extent of territory the species experiences modifications under the influence of certain climatic and other local conditions, which are here characterized as geographical races; these, let me say, present their distinctive characteristics with great uniformity and constancy, although the differences from the typical or restricted *sparverius* are not very great. The *F. sparverius* as restricted, or what is more properly termed var. *sparverius*, inhabits the whole of North and Middle America (both coasts included,

being it nearly to the base, the lateral feather has both webs continuous deep chestnut, the tip slate, the subterminal spot and shaft black. Chin and throat dull ashy-white; rest of lower parts continuous deep chestnut-rufous, this palest on the anal region, and tinged with slate across the jugulum as well as on the flanks, where there are a very few darker spots. (The chestnut beneath is unspotted.) Inner webs of primaries mottled along the edge with paler slate, this running in points toward the shafts, giving an idea of bars. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4, 1. Wing, 7.00; tail, 4.45; tarsus, 1.31; middle toe, .90; culmen, .50.

♂ (29,579, Cuba, April 25; Charles Wright). Head above, dark plumbeous; feathers with darker shaft-lines; black stripes of head more sharply defined than in the male. Above, continuously deep rufous (brighter and more ferruginous than in the different styles of *sparverius*), continuously barred, as in var. *sparverius*, but blacker, the bars on upper part of back with tendency to longitudinal direction. Tail with twelve narrow, sharply defined bars of black; but the ground-color continuous rufous to the tip, the lateral feather as deeply rufous as the middle. Inner webs of primaries deep rusty-rufous, with twelve very narrow transverse bars of dusky crossing to the edge. The middle area of the ear-coverts, with the chin and throat, is dull white; the rest of the lower parts (including side of the neck) and whole lining of the wing are deep rusty-rufous, paler on the crissum, nearly white on the anal region; these regions have no spots, except on the flanks, where are a few narrow transverse bars. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4, 1. Wing, 7.00; tail, 4.45; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, .90; culmen, .51.

*Juv.* ♂ (39,108, Remedios, Cuba, December 11, 1863; N. H. Bishop). General appearance of the adult; but back, scapulars, rump, and upper tail-coverts chestnut-rufous, uniform with the tail; these parts are, however, strongly clouded with more bluish slate, and the blackish spots are more distinct. The black zone of the tail runs more sharply across, and is narrower than in the adult. The middle area of the ear-coverts is nearly as light as the throat. The rufous beneath is less castaneous, as well as less continuous, becoming nearly white on abdomen and tibia; the slaty tinge on the jugulum is wanting. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4, -1. Wing, 6.85; tail, 4.90; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, .90; culmen, .50.

♀ (23,546, Monte Verde, Cuba, July 16, 1861; Charles Wright). Differing from the adult in the same respects as does that of *sparverius*, the chief differences consisting in the deeper chestnut of the tail, and broader and blacker bars above. Rufous beneath, with numerous sagittate spots of black; lower tail-coverts with subterminal bars, and lining of the wing with sparse streaks of the same. Plumage generally with a blended appearance. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4 = 1.



except those of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, south to the Isthmus of Panama. Throughout this whole region it is everywhere nearly the same bird. This variety appears to represent the species in its greatest purity, being a sort of central form from which the others radiate. The most typical examples of the var. *sparverius* are the specimens in the large series from the elevated regions or plateau of Mexico and Guatemala. In these the rufous of the crown is most extended (in none is it at all restricted), and the ashy portions are of the finest or bluest and lightest tint.

All specimens, of quite a large series, from the peninsula of Lower California, are considerably smaller than any others, the smallest (1,693 ♂ ad. San José; J. Xantus measuring, wing, 6.50; tail, 4.20; and tarsus, 1.30; the dwarfed size of these, however, is their only distinguishing feature. Two specimens (50,199, ♂, Cape Florida, and 10,345, ♀, Indian Key) from Florida differ from others in the unusual development of the bill, which toward the end is more suddenly curved, and the point considerably lengthened; these specimens have, also, only a tinge of rufous on the crown, thus showing a proximity to the var. *isabellinus*. The large bill, however, is no more than would be looked for in specimens from that region.

Along the Gulf border of the United States, and the Caribbean and North

Wing, 7.40; tail, 4.85; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, .90. Another specimen, No. 23,415, Monte Veré, July 17, 1891, C. W. Ward, is much the same, but has a few spots of black on the fluffmen, and tear-shaped marking of the same on the scapulars. The young female of this species bears a remarkably close resemblance to the young of *T. punctatus*, Cuv., of Madagascar, agreeing almost entirely with it in colors, with the exception of those on the tail, the bars on which are black and ash, instead of black and rufous. Whether it be considered a distinct species or not, the *T. sparveroides* certainly grades into the *T. sparverius*, in the very near relation of an aberrant condition of the adult phase of the latter, noticed in specimens from Florida and adjoining portions of the South American and Gulf coast, and the young normal or usual plumage of the former. As is well known, the young ♂ *sparveroides* has a reddish and also more or less barred or spotted back, as in the male of all the races of *sparverius* at all ages; the intermediate or transition dress of the young male showing cloudings of plumbeous in the rufous, indicative of the coming uniform plumbeous of perfect maturity. Now, knowing that a wholly plumbeous dorsal region in the adult, and wholly or mostly rufous dorsal region in the young male, are characteristic features of *T. sparveroides*, we are somewhat surprised to find in adult males of *T. sparverius* var. *isabellinus* from Florida, a greater or less mixture of plumbeous feathers in various parts of the dorsal region, particularly in the rump and upper tail-coverts. Many specimens from this locality show another approach to the young male of *sparveroides* in the deep, unspotted rufous of the lower parts, sometimes the throat only being white. A young male of *sparveroides* from Cuba, and an adult male of *sparverius* said to be from Cuba, are at a cursory glance not distinguishable; a close comparison, however, will disclose the fact, that in the former, the badly defined head-markings, nearly obsolete black markings on the wings (including basal space of the secondaries, which is conspicuously and sharply defined in the other specimen), and the blurred character of the bars over inner webs of primaries, remain as characters distinguishing the former. The lateral tail-feather, too, has its outer web deep rufous, while it is white, black-spotted, in the specimen of *sparverius*.

*List of specimens examined.*—L. N. Mus., 11; Bost. Soc., 3; Philad., 1; G. N. Lawrence, 4; R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 23.

*Measurements.*—♂. Wing, 6.90–7.10; tail, 4.80–5.10; culmen, .50; tarsus, 1.45–1.48; middle toe, .90. Specimens, 4. ♀. Wing, 7.00–7.50; tail, 5.00–5.15; culmen, .50; tarsus, 1.35–1.40; middle toe, .88–.90. Specimens, 3.

Atlantic coasts of South America (probably the whole Atlantic coast of tropical and subtropical America), the true *sparverius* is changed into what Swainson has called "*Fulco isabellinus*," which differs from the former only in having the cinereous of the crown and wings considerably darker (as well as less bluish), approaching plumbeous; the rufous of the crown is totally absent, or only present in faint touches; the lower parts are of a deeper ochraceous, and the black spots on the breast and sides sparse.

Allied to the last in tints of coloration, and apparently a direct offshoot from it, is the *dominicensis* of Gmelin (based upon description by Brisson), which inhabits the Lesser Antilles, from Trinidad northward to Porto Rico. Although I consider this (var. *dominicensis*) as a modified form of the var. *isabellinus*, yet it is the one of all the varieties referrible to *sparverius* which deviates most widely from the typical or original style. The characters of this are, tints those of var. *isabellinus*, but, in addition, the tail has numerous more or less complete black bands, while those of the back and scapulars are very broad and numerous; also, the crown has a decided rufous patch; the bill, too, is larger than in any other American member of the genus. A style of considerable uniformity spreads over the whole of South America, including both coasts, from Bogota to the Parana, excepting the northeastern coast region, before mentioned as inhabited by the var. *isabellinus*. It differs from all the other styles, except the *cinnamominus* of Chile, in having the lower parts continuously dull white, any ochraceous tinge being scarcely perceptible; there is seldom a trace of rufous on the crown, which has the light bluish tint seen in var. *sparverius*, and the black zone of the tail is scarcely more than half as wide as in the northern races. In size, also, it somewhat exceeds the others. Swainson named this "*Fulco gracilis*"; but the *F. (Tinnunculus) gracilis* of Lesson being a different species, and the name as applied to it of prior date, I have bestowed upon the present bird the name var. *australis*.

In Chile and Brazil (Western?) we find a form resembling the last in some respects, but differing in points of almost specific value. It differs from all the other American members of the genus in having the tail continuously rufous to the extreme tip, the black zone being considerably narrower than the terminal rufous, the lateral tail-feather immaculate rufous, etc. The grayish of the head is much darker and more slaty than in the var. *australis*. This is, without doubt, the *Fulco cinnamominus* of Swainson, the specimens in the collection corresponding exactly with the description by that author.

The rufous patch on the crown must not be too much considered, as it is of all characters perhaps the most treacherous, though its presence or absence is in a measure characteristic of the several varieties. Neither does the exact number of spots on the lateral tail-feather prove sufficiently constant to serve as a character in which the least reliance can be placed, though Swainson attaches considerable value to it. I have found that, besides varying almost with the individual, in some specimens the feathers of opposite sides did not correspond.

About two hundred and fifty specimens form the basis of the following synopsis.

**A.** Tail tipped with white; outer tail-feathers (one or more) variegated.

*a.* ♂. Head above, and wings, like *sparverius*; usually one tail-feather only (the outer) variegated.

1. Vertex with a conspicuous patch of rufous. ♂. Black zone of the tail 1.00 in width; breast strongly tinged with ochraceous; spots of black on the breast or sides circular. ♀. Above fulvous-rufous, the whole breast and sides with longitudinal dashes of a lighter tint of the same. *Hab.* Continent of North America north of Panama (except Caribbean and Gulf coast) . . . . . var. *sparverius*.
2. Vertex with only a trace of rufous, or none at all. ♂. Black zone of tail only .60 in width; breast nearly pure white; spots of black usually only on the sides, elliptical. ♀. Above vinaceous-rufous; longitudinal markings beneath deeper brown. *Hab.* Continent of South America (except North Atlantic and Caribbean coast) . . . . . var. *australis*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Falco sparverius*, var. *australis*. *Falco sparverius* (not of LINNÆUS!), SWAINS. AL. Mus. 2, p. 281, 1838. *Falco sparverius* (not of LINNÆUS!), TSCHUDI, Faun. Per. An. p. 110. *Tinnunculus sparverius* (not of VIEILLLOT!), DARW. Zool. Beag. pt. iii, 29. *Bidens sparverius*, SPIX, Av. Bras. I, 16. *Bidens dominicensis* (not *F. dominicensis* of GMELIN!), SPIX, Av. Bras. I, 16. *Tinnunculus dominicensis*, STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 100, 1855 (in part). *T. sparverius*, var. *australis*, RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Phil. Dec. 1870, 149.

*Hab.* Most of continental South America, except the North Atlantic and the Caribbean coasts, where replaced by the var. *cinnamominus*. In Chile and Western Brazil, replaced with, but not replaced by, var. *cinnamominus*.

*Adult* ♂ (20,937, Parana; Coll. of the U. S. Paraguay Exp.). Similar to var. *sparverius*. Head above with the rufous entirely wanting; rufous of the plumage more vinaceous; black bars of the scapulars almost transversely cordate, and nearer the end of the feather; black zone of the tail only .60 of an inch wide. Beneath continuously white, with elliptical spots or streaks of pure black on sides, becoming somewhat circular on the flanks. Wing, 7.70; tail, 5.30; tarsus, 1.40; middle toe, .92; culmen, .48. In all respects, except the points described, resembling the true *sparverius* of North America, of which it is nothing more than a geographical race, and a not very strongly marked one, though the differences indicated are very constant.

♀ (50,942, Brazil; Sr. Don Fred. Albuquerque). Very similar to *sparverius*; the rufous, equally pale, is, however, more vinaceous; the tail decidedly less rufescent. The black bars are about the same, but on the tail there are thirteen, and the subterminal one is scarcely broader than the rest; the lateral tail-feather has the bars only on inner web, and here almost wanting. Head above as in the male, being without the rufous tinge on the vertex. Beneath yellowish-white, about like *sparverius*; the whole breast and side with numerous longitudinal dashes of deep brown, similar in form to *sparverius*, but of much deeper tint. Inner web of longest primary with twelve transverse bars of white, these scarcely exceeding the dusky ones. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4-1. Wing, 7.80; tail, 5.20; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, .95; culmen, .55.

*Imm.* ♂ (16,570, Bogota; W. Evans). Differing from the adult in deeper tints and broader black bars; those on the tail twelve in number, more than doubling in width those of the adult; markings beneath more blended, darker brown. Differs from young of var. *sparverius* in much lighter rufous above; less purely black bars; entire absence of rufous on crown, and narrower shaft-streaks here; less ochraceous-white beneath, and less blended markings.

*List of Specimens examined.* Nat. Mus., 16; Best. Soc., 3; Philad. Acad., 16; N. Y. Mus., 4; Mus. Comp. Zool., 2; R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 42.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 6.80-7.90; tail, 4.75-5.90; culmen, .48-.50; tarsus, 1.40-1.50; middle toe, .90-1.00. Specimens, 17. ♀. Wing, 7.20-8.15; tail, 5.10-5.80; culmen, .48-.52; tarsus, 1.20-1.52; middle toe, .90. Specimens, 25.

b. ♂. Head above and wings, dark bluish-plumbeous; several outer tail-feathers variegated.

3. Vertex without any patch. ♂. Anterior portions beneath deep ochraceous, without spots. Tail without indication of bars anterior to the subterminal one; black bars above confined to larger scapulars. ♀. Above ferruginous, with the black bars broader and blacker than in either of the preceding. *Hab.* Gulf, Caribbean, and Atlantic coasts of tropical continental America (Florida to Cayenne) . var. *isabellinus*.

4. Vertex with a patch of rufous. ♂. Black spots beneath numerous, large and circular. Tail with more or less complete black bars anterior to the subterminal band, sometimes regularly barred to the base; black bars above covering entire rufous surface. ♀. Similar to that of *isabellinus*, but markings beneath more numerous, and pure black instead of brown. *Hab.* Lesser Antilles, north to St. Thomas.

var. *dominicensis*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Falco sparverius*, var. *dominicensis*. *Accipiter* (*Exaltus*) *dominicensis*, BRISSON, Orn. I, 389, pl. XXVII. 1. 2, 1760. *Falco dominicensis*, GÜNTHER, Syst. Nat. p. 285, 1789. *Tamiascelus dominicensis*, STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 100, 1855 (in part only). *Tinnunculus sparverius*, var. *dominicensis*, RIDGWAY, Pl. Ac. Nat. Sc. Philad. Dec. 1870, 149.

*Hab.* Lesser Antilles north to Porto Rico and St. Thomas.

*Adult* ♂ (52,428, St. Bartholomæ; Professor Sundevall). Resembling var. *isabellinus* in general appearance, but darker, and more heavily barred above; beneath much more spotted. Head above with blackish shaft-streaks and vertex with a patch of rufous; this, however, somewhat restricted. Rufous above, with numerous broad bars of black, these running continuously across and extending anteriorly to the neck; rump even, with a few very small, transversely sagittate specks of the same. Tail crossed by nine perfectly regular and sharply defined narrow bands of pure black, anterior to the subterminal zone, which is about .80 of an inch wide; outer feather white, tinged medially with rufous, barred with black to the base. Black spotting in dark cinereous of the wing very exaggerated in comparison with var. *sparverius*. Markings beneath very numerous, the sides being thickly marked with large cordate or nearly circular spots of black, these growing larger toward the flanks. The rufous of the breast is about as in var. *isabellinus*. Wing, 6.80; tail, 5.10; tarsus, 1.40; middle toe, .94; culmen, .53. Wing-formula, 3-2-4, 5, 6-1.

♀ (52,429, St. Bartholomæ; Professor Sundevall). Black bands above exceeding in breadth the rufous ones; each feather of the head above with a sharp medial streak of black. Tail with twelve bands of black; outer feather approaching white. Markings beneath pure black, as in the male; their course longitudinal anteriorly, on the sides more circular, transverse on the flanks. Wing, 6.70; tail, 5.00; tarsus, 1.30; middle toe, 1.00; culmen, .53. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4-1, 5.

The male selected for the type is an extreme example; no others have the character of the variety presented in a degree as exaggerated as this specimen. Nos. 362 (♂) and 170 (♀) of the Bryant Collection) from Porto Rico, and No. 36,554 (♂, St. Thomas; Robert Swift), may be taken as more perfect, or rather as average representatives of the variety. These two males are almost exactly similar. They have the back as strongly barred as in the type, and the black spots on the rump are as noticeable; but the tail, instead of being crossed by regular, perfectly continuous, sharply defined bands, has these broader and more broken, being indicated only by spots along the edge; they also decrease in width toward the base. The Porto Rico specimen has very much ashy-white between the two last black bars, this being found on the four lateral feathers; between the next two, on three feathers, etc. The other specimen, however, is destitute of this ashy-white, although the outer web of the lateral feather is pure white, — spotted, however, with black. In the Porto Rico specimen the breast is as deeply ochraceous as in the *isabellinus* style; but the spots are larger and more numerous even than in any examples of *sparverius*. A female from here differs from the type only in a few unimportant points, the principal difference being in the markings beneath. In this there is a general ochraceous wash on the lower parts, the





**Falco (Tinnunculus) sparverius, LINN.**Var. *sparverius*, LINNÆUS**AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK; AMERICAN KESTREL.**

*Accipiter (Æsalon) carolinensis*, BRISS. Orn. I, 385, 1760. *Accipiter minor*, CATESB. Carol. I, 5, 1754. *Falco sparverius*, LINN. Syst. Nat. p. 128, 1766. — PENN. Acad. Zool. pp. 211, 212. — GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 284. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 42; Synop. I, 110, sp. 94; Gen. Hist. I, 290. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 142, pl. xii. — SHAW, Zool. VII, pl. xxvi. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xvi. l. 1, pl. xxvii, l. 2. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 56, 60. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 95. — BENN. gard. Zool. Soc. II, 121. — STEPH. XIII, ii, 38. — CUV. Reg. Anim. (ed. 2), I, 322. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 262; II, 51. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. pl. xxiv. — WAGL. Isis, 1831, 517. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 27; Isis, 1832, 1136. — VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1234 (in part). — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cxlii; Orn. Biog. II, 246, pl. cxlii. — BREW. (WILS.) Synop. p. 684; Am. Oölogy, p. 16, pl. xi, figs. 13 and 15 a. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 16, pl. vii. f. 16. — PEAB. Birds Mass. III, 69. — NUTT. Man. I, 58. *Tinnunculus sparverius*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pls. xii, xiii. — BRIDG. Proc. Zool. Soc. pt. xi, 109. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 10; List Brit. B. Mus. p. 60. — WOODH. Sitgr. Exp. Zuni & Colorad. p. 60. — CASS. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. 1855, 278. — Birds Cal. & Tex. p. 92; Birds N. Am. 1858, 13. — RIDGW. P. A. N. S. 1870, 148. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 99, 1855. *Cerchneis sparverius*, BONAP. List Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 5, 1838. *Pacilornis sparverius*, KAUP, Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, 53. *Tinnunculus phalæna*, LESSON, Mam. et d'Ois. 1847, 178 (San Blas & Acapulco).

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (12,025, Washington, D. C.; W. Wallace). Forehead, lateral and posterior regions of the vertex, occiput, and wings, bluish-ash. Vertex, nape, scapulars, interscapulars, rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail, fine cinnamon-rufous; scapulars and back barred with black, the bars broadest and most conspicuous posteriorly. Tail tipped with white, and with a broad sharply defined subterminal zone of black, about one inch in width; lateral feather, with outer web and terminal half of inner, ashy-white, the latter with one or two distinct transverse spots anterior to the subterminal one. Wing-coverts with more or less conspicuous cordate spots of black, rather sparsely distributed; basal two-thirds of secondaries and whole of primaries deep black; the latter whitish around the terminal margin and with nine transverse bands of white on inner web of longest (second), the white rather exceeding the black, the points of which do not reach the edge of the feather; lining of the wing white with conspicuous cordate spots of black. Front and superciliary region more hoary than the forehead, almost approaching white. Whole lateral region of the head, with chin, throat, and lower parts, white; the neck, breast, and sides, however, with a deep tinge of ochraceous, the tint hardly approaching the depth of color seen on the nape. On the head there are (considering both sides) seven black spots; the first originating in front of the bare anteorbital space (leaving the lores white), and extending in a stripe downward across the maxillæ, forming a conspicuous "mustache"; the second crosses the tips of the ear-coverts, in form of an oblong transverse spot; the third is smaller, situated as far behind the last as this, and is posterior to the "mustache," crossing the side of the neck; the last is an odd nuchal spot separating the ash of the occiput from the rufous of the nape. Breast and sides with circular or cordate spots of pure black; these varying in size, but generally larger on the sides. Other lower parts immaculate. Wing-formula,  $2 = 3 - 4, 1$ . Wing, 7.10; tail, 4.50; tarsus, 1.32; middle toe, .93; culmen, .45.

*Adult female* (10,751, Fort Bridger, Utah; C. Drexler). Blue above confined to the head, which shows the rufous patch as in the male; entire upper parts rufous, lighter and

less purplish than in the male, everywhere barred with black. Tail with twelve sharply defined narrow bars of black; the subterminal broadest, and about three eighths of an inch in width. Longest primary with eleven transverse spaces of pale rufous, nearly twice as wide as the dusky ones, which scarcely touch the edge. Beneath yellowish-white, paler than in the male, breast and sides with rusty longitudinal spots. Head as in the male. Wing, 7.60; tail, 5.20; tarsus, 1.50; middle toe, .90; bill, .50. Wing-formula, 2-3-1-1.

*Young male* (5,581, Medicine Bow Creek, Nebraska, August 7, 1856; W. S. Wood). Exactly like the adult male, but with the rufous darker, approaching to chestnut; spots beneath inclining to a tear-shaped form, and, though more numerous, are not so well defined as in the adult; also rufescent tinge beneath more general; blue of the wings with scarcely any spots; white terminal band of tail tinged with rufous. Sometimes the two or three outer feathers are clouded with ash, and possess indication of bars, formed of irregular black spots.

*Young female* (40,520, Fort Rice, Dakota; S. M. Rothhammer). Generally like the adult, but with rufous above darker, approaching ferruginous; the bars everywhere broader, and purer black; rufous vertical patch streaked centrally with black; spots beneath larger, darker, approaching reddish umber.

HAB. Continental North America (only), across to both coasts, and from Arctic regions to Isthmus of Panama; not in West Indies.

This form ranges over the whole of continental North America, from Panama northward into the British Provinces, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Throughout the whole of this extensive area the bird exhibits very little variation, in fact, none not of an almost individual character, consisting mainly in the varying amount of ashy-white and black on the lateral tail-feather, and also, to a less extent, in the depth of the ochraceous tint on the breast, and the abundance and size of the black spots on the sides or flanks. In the Gulf region of the United States it passes gradually into var. *isabellinus* through intermediate specimens. We have seen Florida skins (kindly lent to us by Mr. J. A. Allen) from Miami (♂, January 29, 1872), Cedar Keys (♂, February 28, 1871), and Florida Keys (♂, February 14, 1871). Of these, only the first (No. 14,491) deviates noticeably from the typical style; it inclines toward var. *isabellinus* in sparsity of black spots on flanks and restricted rufous on the crown, but in the pure light ash of the crown and wings, and faint ochraceous of the breast, it resembles more the var. *sparverius*. Wing, 6.50; tail, 4.70. The two other specimens measure as follows: No. 14,487, Florida Keys, wing, 6.90; tail, 5.00. No. 14,492, Cedar Keys, wing, 6.90; tail, 5.00. The former is peculiar in having some of the upper tail-coverts either partly or entirely ashy.

Mexican specimens represent the race in the greatest purity or exaggeration of its characteristic features, in pure and light bluish-ash of wings and crown, greatest extent of rufous on crown, etc. California specimens often exhibit what I have not noticed in eastern examples, though possibly occurring in them; that is, in adult males the cere and feet are of a deep orange-red — almost vermilion color.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 104; Boston Society, 26; Philadelphia Academy, 7; Mus. Comp. Zool., 66; New York Museum, 7; Capt. G. N. Lawrence, 1; Capt. R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 218.

## Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	6.50-8.00	4.50-5.70	.50 - .	1.25-1.55	.95 - .	117
♀	6.80-8.40	4.90-5.80 "	.55-.55	1.40-1.45	.90-1.00	95

Var. *isabellinus*, SWAINSON.

*Falco isabellinus*, SWAINSON, AN. MUSEUM, p. 281, 1838. *Turdusculus sparverius*, var. *isabellinus*, RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Phil. Dec. 1870, p. 149. *Turdusculus domercianus* (not of Gmel.), STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 100, 1855 (in part only).

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (3,841, Prairie Mer Rouge, La., June, 1853; "J. F."). Much like var. *sparverius*, but considerably darker in colors; plumbeous, crown dark with no rufous on vertex, nor darker shaft-lines. Rufous above more purplish-castaneous; cinereous of wings much darker; neck, jugulum, breast, and sides deep soft ochraceous, spots very few, and restricted to the sides. Wing, 7.00; tail, 4.70; tarsus, 1.25; middle toe, .90; culmen, .50. Wing-formula, 2, 3-4, 1.

*Adult female* (58,339, Jacksonville, Fla., June 10, 1869; C. J. Maynard). Differing from the female of var. *sparverius* in much darker colors, the rufous inclining to castaneous; bars broader, more sharply defined, pure black. Head above pure dark plumbeous, conspicuously different from the fine light ash of var. *sparverius*; vertex with touches only of rufous; markings beneath narrower, and nearly pure black, upon a deeper ochraceous ground. Wing, 7.20; tail, 4.50; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, .83; culmen, .42. Primaries, 2, 3-1, 4.

HAB. North Atlantic and Caribbean coasts of South America, from Demerara northward, along the Gulf coast of Mexico and United States, through Texas and Louisiana to Florida.

This form, though quite different in its extreme condition from true *sparverius*, gradually grades into it. Few, if any, other specimens possess in so exaggerated a degree all the distinctive characters of those described, though all from the regions indicated agree in having darker colors and less rufous on the crown than specimens from the interior of North and Middle America.

A series of six adult male Sparrow Hawks from Florida, kindly loaned me for examination by Mr. J. A. Allen, includes three typical examples of this littoral race of subtropical continental America. They all agree in very deep dark colors, entire absence or merely slight indication of rufous on the vertex, and deeply ochraceous breast, with few markings. No. 14,499 (Miami, Fla., June 19, 1871) is remarkable for lacking entirely the black spots on wings and flanks, and bars on the back or longer scapulars; the three outer tail-feathers are almost wholly ashy-white, with about five transverse spots of black; the terminal white band is strongly tinged with ash; there is no trace of rufous on the crown. Wing, 6.80; tail, 4.80.

In the unspotted wings and sides and unbarred scapulars there is a resem-



blance in this specimen to *F. leucophrys*; which, however, has the ash very much lighter, the black "mustache" obsolete or wanting, the lower breast pure white instead of deep ochraceous; the under surface of the primaries plain white, with shallow dusky serrations along the shaft, instead of being heavily barred with dusky; always has a patch of rufous on the crown, a conspicuous frontal and superciliary stripe of white, and an entirely differently marked tail. In its much barred tail it also resembles the var. *dominicensis* to a slight extent; but the latter has the middle feathers also barred, and always has the scapulars, generally the entire dorsal region, heavily barred with black, and the wings, breast, and sides heavily spotted; the bill is larger, and there is always more or less rufous on the crown. The other two specimens are more like the average; they both have a mere trace of rufous on the crown, conspicuous bars on the scapulars, and spots on the wings. No. 5,188 (Hibernia, Fla., February 3, 1869) has only a few black specks on the flanks; the outer tail-feather ashy-white, with seven transverse black spots across inner web. Wing, 6.80; tail, 4.80. No. 5,373 (Hawkinsville, Fla., March 12, 1869) is similar, but has the flanks distinctly spotted with black, and the outer tail-feather with inner web plain pale rufous, with only the subterminal large black spot. Wing, 6.80; tail, 4.80.

A series of ten specimens (five males and five females) from Florida, kindly sent me for examination by Mr. C. J. Maynard, contains nothing but var. *sparverius*, with a few individuals inclining slightly toward var. *isabellinus*. The extreme are measurements of the series as follows: ♂. Wing, 6.60–6.90; tail, 4.50–4.70. ♀. Wing, 6.90–7.50; tail, 4.80–5.10. Four out of the five males have the deeply ochraceous unspotted breast of var. *isabellinus*, but all have more or less rufous on the crown, while the ash is of that light shade seen in var. *sparverius*. No. 476 has the upper tail-coverts mixed with feathers which are either wholly or partially ash, while the light bands of the outer tail-feathers are much tinged with the same; the scapulars are almost wholly fine ash, like the wings, and with heavy black bars. The females likewise all incline toward var. *isabellinus*, all having the dark bars above equal to or broader than the rufous ones. No. 6,441 is transversely spotted on the flanks with heavy black bars, and is scarcely distinguishable from females of var. *dominicensis*.

An adult male labelled as coming from Cuba, but probably from the southeastern United States, in the collection of the Boston Society, is so deeply colored as to strongly resemble the young male of *T. sparveroides*. There is not a trace of rufous on the crown, which is dark plumbeous; the lower parts are entirely deep rufous, except the throat, inclining more to ochraceous on the tibiae and crissum; the whole lower surface entirely free from spots of any kind. The tail is very uniformly marked, being wholly rufous, except the usual narrow terminal band, or the outer web of lateral feathers, which are white, — the latter with a few indications of black spots near the shaft, — and the usual subterminal zone of black, which is very

regular and continuous. Though in these respects so closely resembling the young ♂ of *T. sparrowoides*, it may be distinguished from it by the sharp definition of the black markings on the side of the head and on the wing-coverts, and of the black bars on the inner webs of the primaries. We have every reason to doubt whether this specimen was actually collected in Cuba, since so many of the specimens in the Lafresnaye Collection are incorrectly labelled as regards locality.

A young ♂ from Georgia, in the same collection, is somewhat similar, but differs in the following respects. The rufous beneath is confined to the breast, sides, and abdomen, but is as deep (i. e. only a shade or two lighter than that on the back); the two outer pairs of tail-feathers are mostly ashy-white, with large spots of black.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 4; Boston Society, 2; Mus. Comp. Zool., 3; Philadelphia Academy, 4; New York Museum, 2; G. N. Lawrence, 4. Total, 19.

## Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	7.00–7.70	4.86–5.50	.50–.	1.30–1.50	.90–.	11
♀	7.20–7.70	5.00–5.30	.45–.50	1.35–1.40	.85–.	5

**HABITS.** The common Sparrow Hawk of America has an extended distribution throughout the greater portion of North America, although it was not observed by Mr. MacFarlane, nor by any other collectors in the higher Arctic regions, nor was it met with by Mr. Dall in Alaska. Mr. Kennicott found it nesting at Fort Resolution (lat. 62°), on Great Slave Lake, and Mr. Clark at Fort Rae. These are the highest points to which we have any knowledge of its having been traced.

Sir John Richardson speaks of it as abundant on the banks



*Tinnunculus sparverius.*

of the Saskatchewan, in the neighborhood of Carlton House. It probably breeds throughout North America, from Hudson's Bay to Mexico, and from

Maine to California, though it is rare in a large portion of the New England States. It is, however, quite abundant in the vicinity of Calais, Me., in New Brunswick, and in Nova Scotia, though less abundant about Halifax. It has not been taken, or if so only very rarely, in Eastern Massachusetts, though it has been known to breed in Williamstown and Amherst, in the western part of the State. It is equally rare in Rhode Island and in Connecticut. Dr. Woods, of East Hartford, knew of a pair which entered a dove-cot in that place, destroyed its inmates, and laid four eggs. They committed so many depredations on the neighbors' chickens that they were shot.

Mr. Ridgway found this species exceedingly abundant in all portions of the West. In the cañons of the East Humboldt Mountains it was observed to have nests in holes on the faces of the limestone cliffs.

The Sparrow Hawk is a bird of irregular flight, now momentarily hovering over a particular spot, suspending itself in the air, and then shooting off in another direction. At other times it may be seen perched on the top of a dead tree, or on a projecting branch, sitting there in an almost perpendicular position for an hour or more at a time. It frequently jerks its tail, and appears to be reconnoitring the ground below for small birds, mice, or lizards, on which it chiefly preys. When it alights, it closes its long wings so suddenly that, according to Wilson, they seem to disappear. It often approaches the farm-house early in the morning, skulking about the barnyard in pursuit of mice, and occasionally of young chickens. Frequently it plunges into a thicket, as if at random, but always with an object in view, and with a sure and fatal aim.

Wilson once observed one of this species perched on the highest top of a large poplar, and, just as he was about to take aim, it swept down with the rapidity of an arrow into a thicket of briars, where he shot it, and found a small Field Sparrow quivering in its grasp. It is said to be fond of watching along hedge-rows and in orchards, where small birds usually resort. When grasshoppers are plentiful, they form the principal part of its food. The young are fed with the usual food of the parents,—mice, small birds, grasshoppers, etc. It also feeds upon small snakes, but rarely, if ever, touches anything that it has not itself killed, and has been known to reject its prey when, after having been killed, it proved to be in unsuitable condition for food.

Mr. Audubon states that the flight of this species is never protracted. It seldom flies far at a time; a few hundred yards are all the distance it usually goes before alighting. It rarely sails long on the wing at a time; a half-hour is its utmost extent. In pursuing a bird, it flies with great rapidity, but never with the speed of the Sharp-shinned and other Hawks. Its cry is so similar to that of the Kestrel of Europe that it might be readily mistaken for it but for its stronger intonation. At times it gives out these notes as it perches, but they are principally uttered while on the wing. Mr. Audubon has heard them imitate the feeble cries of their offspring, when these have left the nest and are following their parents.

The young birds, when they first appear, are covered with a white down. They grow with great rapidity, and are soon able to leave their nest, and are well provided for by their parents until they are able to take care of themselves. They feed at first on grasshoppers and crickets.

At Denysville, Me., these Hawks were observed to attack the Cliff Swallows, while sitting on their eggs, deliberately tearing open their covered nests, and seizing their occupants for their prey.

In winter, these birds, for the most part, desert the Northern and Middle States, but are resident south of Virginia. They can be readily tamed, especially when reared from the nest. Mr Audubon raised a young Hawk of this species, which continued to keep about the house, and even to fly to it for shelter when attacked by some of its wilder kindred, and never failed to return at night to roost on its favorite window-shutter. It was finally killed by an enraged hen, whose chickens it attempted to seize.

This Hawk constructs no nest, but makes use of hollow trees, the deserted hole of a Woodpecker, or even an old Crow's nest. Its eggs are usually as many as five in number, and Mr. Audubon once even met with seven in a single nest. The ground of the eggs is usually a dark cream-color or a light buff. In their markings they vary considerably. Five from a nest in Maryland were covered throughout the entire surface with small blotches and dottings of a light brown, at times confluent, and, except in a single instance, not more frequent at the larger end than the smaller. The contents of a nest obtained by Mr. Audubon on the Yellowstone River had a ground-color of a light buff, nearly unspotted, except at the larger end, with only a few large blotches and splashes of a deep chocolate. In others, interspersed with the light-brown markings are a few of a much deeper shade. In some, the eggs are covered with fine markings of buff, nearly uniform in size and color; and others again are marked with lines and bolder dashes of brown, of a distinctly reddish shade, over their entire surface, and often so thickly as nearly to conceal the ground. The eggs are nearly spherical. The average length is 1.38 inches by a breadth of 1.13. They are subject to variation in size, but are uniform as to shape. They range in length from 1.48 to 1.32 inches, and in breadth from 1.08 to 1.20 inches.

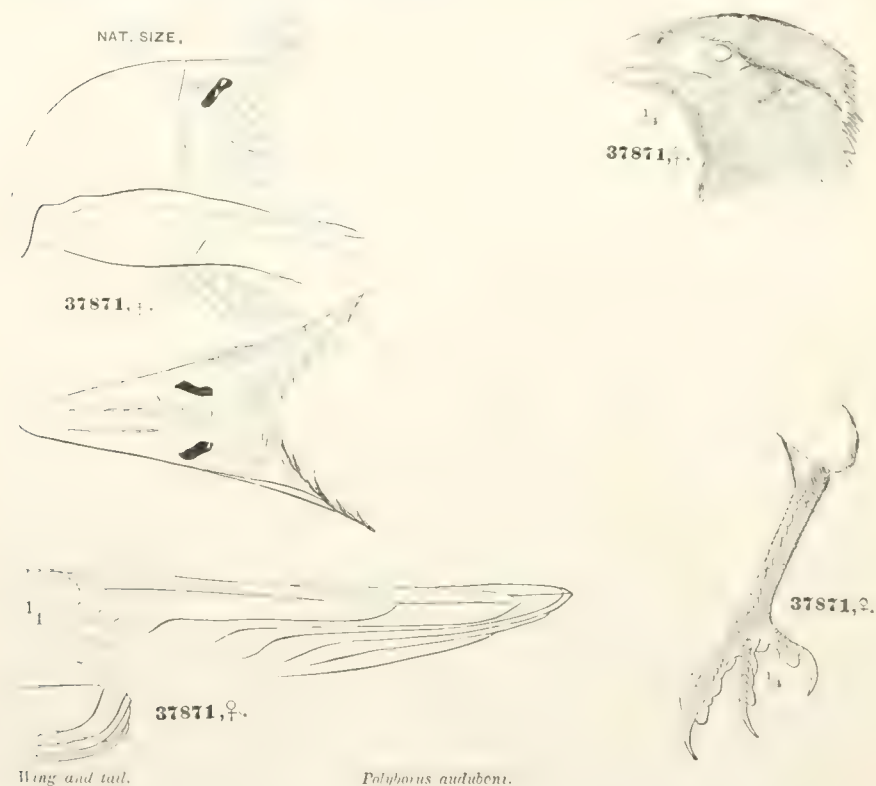
The eggs of *Tinnunculus sparveroides*, from Cuba, and of var. *cinnamominus* from Chile, differ in size and markings from those of North American birds. Their ground-color is much whiter, is freer from markings which have hardly any tinge of rufous, but are more of a yellowish-brown. The Cuban egg measures 1.28 by 1.08 inches; the Chilian, 1.25 by 1.08.



GENUS **POLYBORUS**, VIEILLOT.

*Polyborus*, VIEILL. 1816. (Type, *Falco leucodactylus*, GMELIN. *P. tharus*, MOLINA.)  
*Circus*, CUVIER, 1817. (Same type.)

GEN. CHAR. General aspect somewhat vulturine, but bearing and manners almost gallina-  
 ceous. Neck and legs very long. Bill very high and much compressed, the commissure  
 very straight and regular, and nearly parallel with the superior outline; cere very narrow,  
 its anterior outline vertical and straight. Nostril very small, linear, obliquely vertical, its  
 upper end being the posterior one; situated in the upper anterior corner of the cere.  
 Lateral and under portions of the head naked and scantily haired, the skin bright-colored



(reddish or yellow in life). Occipital feathers elongated. Wings and tail long, the latter rounded; five outer quills with inner webs sinuated; third to the fourth longest; first shorter than the sixth, sometimes shorter than the seventh. Feet almost gallinaceous, the tarsus nearly twice as long as the middle toe, but stout; outer toe longer than the inner; posterior toe much the shortest; claws long, but slender, weakly curved, and obtuse. Tarsus with a frontal series of large transverse scutellæ, the lower fourth to sixth forming a single row, the others disposed in two parallel series of alternating plates; the other parts covered by smaller hexagonal scales.

This well-marked genus contains but a single species, the *P. tharus*, Mol., which extends its range over the whole of tropical and subtropical America,

exclusive of some of the West India Islands. North and south of the Isthmus it is modified into geographical races, the southern of which is var. *tharus*, Mol., and the northern var. *auduboni*, Cass.

The closely related genera *Phalcobænas*, *Milvago*, *Ibycter*, and *Daptrius* are peculiar to South America and the southern portion of Middle America, most of them being represented by two or more species. They all form a well-marked and peculiarly American group, for which I shall retain Schlegel's term *Polybori*.

Their habits are quite different in many respects from those of other *Falconidæ*, for they combine in many respects the habits of the gallinaceous birds and those of the Vultures. They are terrestrial, running and walking gracefully, with the exception of the species of *Ibycter* and *Daptrius*, which are more arboreal than the others, and are said also to feed chiefly upon insects, instead of carrion.

### Species and Races.

**P. tharus.** Wing, 14.50–17.70; tail, 10.00–11.00; culmen, 1.20–1.48; tarsus, 3.20–4.20; middle toe, 1.75–2.30.

*Adult.* Forehead, crown, occiput, back, rump, abdomen, sides, and tibiae, and terminal zone of the tail, dull black. Neck, breast, tail-coverts, and tail, dingy whitish. Interscapulars, breast, and tail with transverse dusky bars.

*Young.* Blackish areas replaced by dull brown; region of the transverse bars marked, instead, with longitudinal stripes.

*Adult.* Whole body, with middle wing-coverts, variegated with transverse bars of black and white; tail-coverts barred. Terminal zone of the tail about 2.00 wide. *Young.* Longitudinal stripes over the whole head and body, except throat, cheeks, and tail-coverts; tail-coverts transversely barred. *Hab.* South America.

var. *tharus*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Polyborus tharus.* *Falco tharus*, MOLINA, Sp. Chil. p. 264, 343; 1782. *Polyborus tharus*, STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 19, 1855. *Falco cheriway*, JACQ. Beytrâg. p. 17, pl. iv, 1784. *Polyborus cheriway*, RICH. SCHOMB. Vers. Faun. Brit. Guiana, p. 741, 1840. *Falco plancus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 257, 1789. *Falco brasiliensis*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 262, 1789 (et AUCT.). *Polyborus brasiliensis*, VIG. Zool. Journ. I, 320, 1824. *Caracara vulgaris*, LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 34; 1831. *Polyborus vulgaris*, SPIX. Av. Bras. I, pl. i, a.

*Adult male* (21,850, South America; T. R. Peale). Forehead, crown, occiput, and wings brownish-black; middle wing-coverts fainter, with obscure whitish bars; primaries white in the middle (just beyond the coverts), this portion having obsolete washes of grayish, in form of faintly indicated transverse bars; basal three-fourths of the tail white, with numerous narrow, washed bars of grayish, these becoming more faint toward the base; tail with a terminal zone of black, about two inches broad. Cheeks, chin, and throat soiled white, unvaried; body in general (including neck, breast, sides, abdomen, back, and scapulars) transversely barred with black and white, the white prevailing anteriorly; beneath, the black bars grow gradually wider posteriorly, giving the tibiae and femorals a uniformly blackish appearance; on the back and scapulars also the black bars exceed the white in width, but they are very sharply defined, regular, and continuous; rump, upper and lower tail-coverts, white, with numerous faint bars of grayish. Under side of the wing black; outer six primaries white in the middle portion, beyond the coverts, this patch extending obliquely across; secondaries rather broadly barred on basal two-thirds with black and white, leaving the terminal third unvaried. Third quill longest; fourth scarcely

*Adult.* Transverse bars confined to the breast and interscapulars; rest of body continuous black; tail-coverts without bars; wing-coverts unvariegated. Terminal zone of tail about 2.50 wide. *Young.* Longitudinal stripes confined to the breast and interscapulars; rest of the body continuous brown. Tail-coverts without bars. *Hab.* Middle America, and southern border of United States, from Florida to Cape St. Lucas . . . . . var. *auduboni*.

### **Polyborus tharus, var. auduboni, CASSIN.**

#### **CARACARA EAGLE; "KING BUZZARD" OF FLORIDA.**

*Polyborus auduboni*, CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Philad. 1865, p. 2. *Polyborus vulgaris* ("VIEILL."), AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 350, 1834 (not of VIEILLOT!). *Polyborus brasiliensis* ("GMEL."), AUD. Birds Am. Oct. ed. I, 21, 1840 (not of GMELIN!). *Polyborus tharus* ("MOL.") CASSIN, Birds of Cal. & Tex. I, 113; 1854 (not of MOLINA!); BREWER, Oology, 1857, p. 58, pl. xi, figs. 18 & 19; BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, p. 45. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. VII, 31, 1857. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 13, 1866. — OWEN, Ibis, III, 67. — GURNEY, Cat. Rapt. B. 1864, 17. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 329 (Texas).

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (12,016, Texas; Capt. McCall). Forehead, crown, occiput, and nape, wings, scapulars, rump, belly, thighs, and anal region continuous deep dull black; chin, neck, jugulum, breast, and tail-coverts (upper and lower), soiled white. Breast with numerous cordate spots of black, these growing larger posteriorly, and running in transverse series; back with transverse bars of white, which become narrower and less distinct posteriorly. Basal two-thirds of tail white, crossed by thirteen or fourteen narrow transverse bands of black, which become narrower and more faint basally; outer web of lateral feather almost entirely black; broad terminal band of the tail uniform black (2.40 inches in width); third, fourth, fifth, and sixth primaries grayish just beyond the coverts, this portion with three or four transverse bars of white. Middle portion of primaries beneath, faintly barred with white and ashy; the barred portion extending obliquely across. Third quill longest, fourth a little shorter, second shorter than fifth; first 3.60 inches shorter than longest. Wing, 16.70; tail, 9.60; tarsus, 3.40; middle toe, 2.10.

*Adult female.* Plumage similar; white more brownish; abdomen with indication of bars. Wing, 15.50; tail, 8.70; tarsus, 3.30; middle toe, 2.20.

shorter; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first a little longer than seventh. Wing, 16.00; tail, 6.50; tarsus, 3.50; middle toe, 1.75.

*Young* (13,923, South America; T. R. Peale). Forehead, crown, occiput, nape, back, wings, and lower parts dark sepia-brown; feathers of the breast, sides, and abdomen marked centrally with a broad longitudinal stripe of soiled fulvous-white; those of nape and back more obsoletely striped, and variegated irregularly at ends with the same; wing-coverts passing terminally into pale brownish; secondaries obscurely barred with the same. Cheeks, chin, and throat unvariegated soiled white; tibial feathers with shaft-stripes of pale fulvous. Rump, tail-coverts, and tail as in adult. Several specimens from Buenos Ayres (Conchitas; Wm. H. Hudson), and one from Paraguay (59,236; T. J. Page, U. S. N.), have the black of the lower part of the abdomen and flanks quite continuous. There is never, however, in South American specimens, an approach to the peculiar characters of *auduboni*, as defined.

*List of Specimens examined.* — Nat. Mus., 7; Bost. Soc., 4; Philad. Acad., 3; N. Y. Mus., 3. Total, 17.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 16.00–17.20; tail, 10.00–11.00; culmen, 1.20–1.30; tarsus, 3.70–3.90; middle toe, 1.75–2.15. Specimens, 2. ♀. Wing, 17.70; tail, 10.00; culmen, 1.41; tarsus, 4.20; middle toe, 2.30. Specimens, 1. Sex? Wing, 15.50; tail, 10.00; culmen, 1.30; tarsus, 3.65; middle toe, 1.90. Smallest of 4.

*Young* (42,130, ♀, Mirador, Mexico; Dr. C. Sartorius). Black of adult replaced by dingy dark brown, this darkest in the hood; white and dusky regions gradually blended, the feathers of the breast being whitish, edged (longitudinally) with brown. No trace of the transverse bars, except on the tail, which is like that of the adult.

*HAB.* Middle America north of Darien; southern border of United States from Florida to Lower California; Cuba.

*Localities:* Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I, 214); Cuba (CAB. Journ. II, lxxix; GUNDL. Rept. 1865, 221, resident); ? Trinidad (TAYLOR, Ibis, 1864, 79); Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 329, breeds); Arizona (COUES); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 132); Yucatan (LAWR. 16, 207.)

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 16; Boston Society, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 4; Museum Comp. Zool., 1; R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 25.

*Measurements.*

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	14.60 - 16.50	9.00 - 10.00	1.20 - 1.48	3.20 - 3.60	1.90 - 2.00	6
♀	14.75 - 16.00	8.80 - 10.00	1.20 - 1.45	3.55 - 3.75	2.00 - 2.10	8

*HABITS.* The Caracara Eagle, as this bird is called, though it seems to possess, to a large degree, the characteristics of a Vulture, and hardly any of the true aquiline nature, is found in all the extreme southern portions of the country, in Florida, Texas, Southern Arizona, and California. Audubon met with it abundantly in Florida in the winter of 1831. Mr. Boardman has seen it quite common at Enterprise, associating with the Vultures. Dr. Woodhouse, while encamped on the Rio Salado, near San Antonio, in Texas, frequently saw the Caracaras, and always in company with the Vultures, which he says they greatly resemble in their habits, excepting that they were much more shy. He could, however, readily approach them when on horseback. Mr. Dresser also frequently encountered it in Texas in the vicinity of San Antonio, and speaks of it as abundant from the Rio Grande to the Guadalupe, but never noticed any farther east. In Arizona, Dr. Coues says, it is not a rare bird in the southern and western portions of that Territory. Lieutenant Couch likewise describes them as exceedingly abundant from the Rio Grande to the Sierra Madre. He



*Polyborus tharus*, var. *auduboni*.



speaks of killing a male bird on the nest, which was in a low tree and composed of sticks. He adds that this bird destroys the Texas field-rats (*Sigmodon leucodactylus*) in large numbers.

Dr. Heermann met with this species on the Colorado River, near Fort Yuma, in company with the *Cathartes aura*. He found it so shy that it was impossible to procure a specimen. He found it along the Gila River, and again met with it in Texas wherever there were settlements. At San Antonio, wherever there were slaughter-houses, he met with them in great numbers, twenty or thirty being often seen at a time.

Grayson gives the *Caracara* as quite abundant in the Tres Marias. Although it subsists mainly on dead animals and other offal, it is said to sometimes capture young birds, lizards, snakes, and land-crabs. It generally carries its prey in its beak; but Colonel Grayson states that he has seen it also bear off its food in its claws, as Hawks do. It walks with facility on the ground, and was often met with in the thick woods, walking about in search of snakes. Mr. Xantus found it nesting at Cape San Lucas, placing its nest on the top of the *Cereus giganteus*. It occurs also in the West Indies, especially in the island of Cuba, where it is known to breed. Eggs were obtained and identified by the late Dr. Berlandier, of Matamoras, in Northern Mexico, on the Rio Grande, in considerable numbers.

Mr. Salvin (*Ibis*, I, 214) says the *Caracara* is universal in its distribution in Central America, appearing equally abundant everywhere. At Duenas it was a constant resident, breeding on the surrounding hills. Its food seemed to consist largely of the ticks that infested the animals. In Honduras Mr. G. C. Taylor found them very common, quite tame, and easily shot. They feed on carrion and offal, were often seen scratching among the half-dry cow-dung, and are "a very low caste bird." Mr. E. C. Taylor (*Ibis*, VI, 79) frequently saw this bird on the shores of the Orinoco. It was very tame, and generally allowed a near approach, and when disturbed did not fly far. He did not meet with it in Trinidad.

On the Rio Grande the popular name of this species is *Totache*, while in Chile the *P. tharus* is called *Traro*, but its more common name throughout South America is *Carrancha*.

According to Audubon, the flight of this bird is at great heights, is more graceful than that of the Vulture, and consists of alternate flapping and sailing. It often sails in large circles, gliding in a very elegant manner, now and then diving downwards and then rising again.

These birds feed on frogs, insects, worms, young alligators, carrion, and various other forms of animal food. Mr. Audubon states that he has seen them walk about in the water in search of food, catching frogs, young alligators, etc. It is harmless and inoffensive, and in the destruction of vermin renders valuable services. It builds a coarse, flat nest, composed of flags, reeds, and grass, usually on the tops of trees, but occasionally, according to Darwin, on a low cliff, or even on a bush.

Mr. R. Owen, who found this bird breeding near San Geronimo, Guatemala, April 2 (Ibis, 1861, p. 67), states that the nest was built on the very crown of a high tree in the plain. It was made of small branches twisted together, and had a slight lining of coarse grass. It was shallow, and formed a mass of considerable size. The eggs were four in number, and are described as measuring 2.15 inches by 1.60, having a light red ground-color, and spotted and blotched all over with several shades of a darker red.

Dr. Heermann found the nest of this species on the Medina River. It was built in an oak, and constructed of coarse twigs and lined with leaves and roots. It was quite recently finished, and contained no eggs. Mr. Dresser states that it breeds all over the country about San Antonio, building a large bulky nest of sticks, lined with small roots and grass, generally placed in a low mesquite or oak tree, and laying three or four roundish eggs, similar to those of the Honey Buzzard of Europe. He found several nests in April and through May, and was told by the *rancheros* that its eggs are found as late as June. The nests found in the collection of Dr. Berlandier, of Matamoras, were coarse flat structures, composed of flags, reeds, and grass. The nests, though usually built on the tops of trees, are occasionally found, according to Darwin, on a low cliff, or even on a bush. The number of the eggs is rarely, if ever, more than three or four. Four eggs, taken by Dr. Berlandier near the Rio Grande, exhibit a maximum length of 2.44 inches; least length, 2.25; average, 2.41. The diameter of the smallest egg is 1.75 inches; that of the largest, 1.88; average, 1.81. These eggs not only present the great and unusual variation in their length of nearly eight per cent, but very striking and anomalous deviations from uniformity are also noticeable in their ground-color and markings. The ground-color varies from a nearly pure white to a very deep russet or tan-color, and the markings, though all of sepia-brown, differ greatly in their shades. In some, the ground-color is nearly pure white with a slight pinkish tinge, nearly unspotted at the smaller end, and only marked by a few light blotches of a sepia-brown. These markings increase both in size and frequency, and become of a deeper shade, as they are nearer the larger end, until they become almost black, and around this extremity they form a large confluent ring of blotches and dashes of a dark sepia. Others have a ground-color of light russet, or rather white with a very slight wash of russet, and are marked over the entire surface, in about equal proportion, with irregular lines and broad dashes of dark sepia. Again, in others the ground is of the deepest russet or tan-color, and is marked with deep blotches of a dark sepia, almost black. The eggs are much more oblong than those of most birds of prey, and in this respect also show their relation to the Vultures, rather than to the Hawks or Eagles. They are pyriform, the smaller end tapers quite abruptly, and varies much more, in its proportions, from the larger extremity, than the eggs of most true Hawks.

Lieutenant Gilliss found the South American race exceedingly numerous

throughout Central and Southern Chile. It was constantly met with along the roads, and wherever there was a chance of obtaining a particle of flesh or offal. At the annual slaughtering of cattle they congregate by hundreds, and remain without the corral, awaiting their share of the rejected parts. It was so tame, from not being molested, that it could be taken with the lasso, but when thus captured, it fights desperately, and no amount of attention or kindness can reconcile it to the loss of liberty.

Throughout South America it is one of the most abundant species, its geographical range extending even to Cape Horn. Mr. Darwin found the *Polyborus* nowhere so common as on the grassy savannas of the La Plata, and says that it is also found on the most desert plains of Patagonia, even to the rocky and barren shores of the Pacific.

#### GENUS **PANDION**, SAVIGNY.

*Pandion*, SAVIGNY, 1809. (Type, *Falco haliæetus*, LINN.)

*Triorchis*, LEACH, 1816. (Same type.)

*Balthasardus*, FLEMING, 1828. (Same type.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill inflated, the cere depressed below the arched culmen; end of bill much developed, forming a strong, pendent hook. Anterior edge of nostril touching edge of the cere. Whole of tarsus and toes (except terminal joint) covered with rough, somewhat imbricated, projecting scales. Outer toe versatile; all the claws of equal length. In their shape, also, they are peculiar; they contract in thickness to their lower side, where they are much narrower than on top, as well as perfectly smooth and rounded; the middle claw has the usual sharp lateral ridge, but it is not very distinct. All the toes perfectly free. Tibiæ not plumed, but covered compactly with short feathers, these reaching down the front of the tarsus below the knee, and terminating in an angle. Primary coverts hard, stiff, and acuminate, almost as much so as the quills themselves; third quill longest; first longer than fifth; second, third, and fourth sinuated on outer webs; outer three deeply emarginated, the fourth sinuated, on inner webs.

Of this remarkable genus, there appears to be but a single species, which is almost completely cosmopolitan in its habitat. As in the case of the Peregrine Falcon and Barn Owl, different geographical regions have each a peculiar race, modified by some climatic or local influence. These races, however, are not well marked, and are consequently only definable with great difficulty.

#### Species and Races.

**P. haliæetus.** Wing, 15.20–21.50; tail, 7.00–11.11; culmen, 1.20–1.40; tarsus, 2.00–2.15; middle toe, 1.60–2.00. Second or third quills longest. Above clear dark grayish-brown, inclining to brownish-black, plain, or variegated with white. Tail brownish-gray (the inner webs almost entirely white), narrowly tipped with white, and crossed by about six or seven nearly equal bands of dusky-black. Head, neck, and entire lower parts, snowy-white; the breast with or without brown spots or wash. A dusky stripe on side of head (from lores across the ear-coverts), and top of head more or less spotted, or streaked, with the same. *Adult.* Upper parts plain.

*Young.* Feathers of the upper parts bordered terminally with white. Sexes alike (?).

Wing, 17.00–20.50; tail, 7.00–10.00; culmen, 1.20–1.45; tarsus, 1.95–3.15; middle toe, 1.50–1.90. Second or third quills longest (in eighteen specimens from Europe and Asia). First longer than fifth. Breast always (?) spotted with brownish, or uniformly so; top of head with the black streaks usually predominating. Tail with six to seven narrow black bands, continuous across both webs. *Hab.* Northern Hemisphere of the Old World . . . . . var. *haliastur*.<sup>1</sup>

Wing, 17.50–21.50; tail, 8.70–10.50; culmen, 1.25–1.40; tarsus, 2.00–2.40; middle toe, 1.70–2.00. Second and third quill longest. Breast often entirely without spots; top of head and nape usually with dark streaks predominating. Tail with six to seven narrow black bands, continuous across both webs. *Hab.* Northern Hemisphere of the New World . . . . . var. *carolinensis*.<sup>2</sup>

Wing, 17.50–19.50; tail, 9.00–10.00; culmen, 1.25–1.40; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 1.70–1.95. Third quill longest, but second just perceptibly shorter (eight specimens, including Gould's types). Breast with the markings sometimes (in two out of the eight examples) reduced to sparse shaft-streaks, but never (?) entirely immaculate. Top of the head with the white streaks usually predominating, sometimes (in three out of the eight specimens) immaculate white (the occiput, however, always with a few streaks). Tail with six to seven white bands on the inner webs, which (according to Kaup) do not touch the shaft. *Hab.* Australia . . . . . var. *leucocephalus*.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Pandion haliastur*, var. *haliastur* (LINN.). *Aquila haliastur*, BRISS. Orn. I, 440, pl. xxxiv. *Falco haliastur*, LINN. S. N. I, 1766, 129. *Pandion haliastur*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 86. *Falco arundinaceus*, GMEL. 1733. *Pandion fluviatilis*, SAVIGN. Descr. Egypt. I, 96, 1809. *Pandion alticeps* and *planiceps*, BREHM, Vog. Deutschl. 33, 1831. *Pandion indicus*, HODGES, Cat. Gray's Misc. 81.

*Specimens examined.* — Nat. Mus., 3; Bost. Soc., 2; Philad. Acad., 3; other sources, 10. Total, 18.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 18.00–18.50; tail, 8.50–8.70; culmen, 1.20–1.30; tarsus, 1.95–2.00; middle toe, 1.50–1.80. Specimens, 4. ♀. Wing, 19.50–20.50; tail, 9.00–9.50; culmen, 1.35–1.45; tarsus, 2.00–2.10; middle toe, 1.85–1.90. Specimens, 4.

Five specimens from the Palearctic Region (including one from Japan and one from Morocco) compare with three from India as follows: —

Palearctic specimens: Wing, 18.70–20.40; tail, 9.00–10.00; culmen, 1.28–1.35; tarsus, 2.15; middle toe, 1.75–1.80.

Indian specimens: Wing, 17.00–19.75; tail, 7.00–8.75; culmen, 1.28–1.35; tarsus, 2.00; middle toe, 1.75.

The Indian specimens are slightly darker than the northern ones. In the northern series, the smallest is one from Morocco. This has the breast as white as any Australian example, and has the head and neck above as light as in many of them. The Japanese specimen is exactly like European ones in color, but is intermediate between them and the Indian ones in size, measuring, wing, 17.50; tail, 8.80; culmen, 1.30; tarsus, 2.15; middle toe, 1.60. The smallest in the series is one from Celebes, in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge (No. 12,196). This one measures, wing, 15.20; tail, 7.50; culmen, 1.20; tarsus, 2.00; and middle toe, 1.60. In colors it approaches very closely to var. *leucocephalus*.

<sup>2</sup> *Pandion haliastur*, var. *leucocephalus* (GOULD). *Pandion fluviatilis*, var. 1, LESS. Tr. Orn. 1831, 46. *Pandion leucocephalus*, GOULD, Synop. B. Austr. I, 1832, 22, pl. vi. *Pandion gouldi*, KAUP, Isis, 1847.

*Specimens examined.* — Philad. Acad., 8 (Gould's types); Boston Soc., 1. Total, 9.



**Pandion haliaetus, var. carolinensis (GMEL).****FISH-HAWK; AMERICAN OSPREY.**

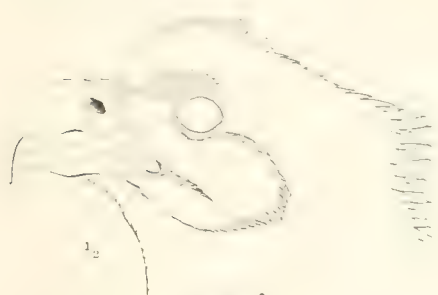
*Falco carolinensis*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 263, 1789. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 69, 1800. *Pandion carolinensis*, BONAP. List, pt. iii, 1838; Consp. Av. p. 16. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 64, 1855. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. lxxxii, 1831. — CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. p. 112, 1854. — BREWER, Oology, 1857, p. 53, pl. iii, fig. 33, 34. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rept. VI, iv, 75, 1857. — HEERM. VII, 21, 1857. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 8, pl. vi, fig. 18. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, p. 44. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, ii, 153, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. 1866, p. 13. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 15, 1869. — MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 11. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, 1864, 110 (Brit. Columb.; nesting). — FOWLER, Am. Nat. II, 1868, 192 (habits). *Falco cayennensis*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 263, 1789. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, p. 69, 1800. *Falco americanus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 257. — LATH. Index Orn. p. 13, 1790; Syn. I, 35, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, 238, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 50. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 88. *Aquila americana*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, pl. iv, 1807. *Pandion americanus*, VIEILL. Gal. Ois. pl. ii, 1825. — VIG. Zool. Journ. I, 336. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, 207, 1837. *Aquila piscatrix*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, pl. iv, 1807. *Accipiter piscatorius*, CATESBY, Carolina, I, pl. ii, 1754. *A. falco piscator antillarum*, BRISS. Orn. I, 361, 1760. *A. falco piscator carolinensis*, BRISS. Orn. I, 362. *Pandion haliaetus*, RICH. Faun. Bor. Am. II, 20, 1831. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 103, 1832. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 38, 1831. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 415, 1831. — GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. p. 22, 1844. ? *Pandion fasciatus*, BREHM, Allgem. deutsch. Zeitung, II, 1856, 66 (St. Domingo).

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (17,227, San José, Lower California, December 15, 1859; J. XANTUS). Upper surface dark vandyke-brown, with a faint purplish cast; quills black. Every feather with a conspicuous, sharply defined terminal crescent of pure white. Tail brownish-drab, narrowly tipped with white, and crossed with seven (one concealed) regular bands of dusky; inner webs almost wholly white, the black bands sharply defined and continuous; shafts entirely white. Ground-color of the head, neck, and entire lower parts, pure white; a broad stripe from the eye back across upper edge of the ear-coverts to the occiput brownish-black; white head also sparsely streaked with blackish, these streaks suffusing and predominating medially; nape faintly tinged with ochraceous, and sparsely streaked. Breast with large cordate spots of brown, fainter than that of the back, a medial spot on each feather, the shaft black; rest of lower parts immaculate. Lining of the wing white, strongly tinged with ochraceous; the brown of the outer surface encroaching broadly over the edge. Under primary-coverts with broad transverse spots or bars; under surface of primaries grayish-white anterior to the emargination irregularly mottled with grayish; axillars immaculate. Wing-formula,  $2 = 3, 4 - 1, 5$ . Wing, 20.00; tail, 8.80; culmen, 1.35; tarsus, 2.15 - 1.10; middle toe, 1.90; outer, 1.75; inner, 1.40; posterior, 1.15; posterior outer and inner claws of equal length, each measuring 1.20 (chord); middle, 1.15. "Iris yellow; feet greenish-yellow."

*Adult female* (290, S. F. Baird's Collection, Carlisle, Pa., April 17, 1841). Dark brown of the upper surface entirely uniform, there being none of the sharply defined white crescents so conspicuous in the male.<sup>1</sup> Tail brown to its tip, the dusky bands

<sup>1</sup> McGillivray describes this plumage as that of the young, and states that the sexes are colored alike; but my observations upon freshly killed specimens, as well as skins, induce me to believe that the sexes are differently colored in their adult plumage, as described above, and the young are not different from the adults. I may be mistaken in adopting this view, but a male killed by myself, in the white-bordered plumage, had scarlet irides and other unmistakable characteristics of perfect maturity.

obscure, except on inner webs. On the top of the head, the dusky is more confined to a medial stripe. Pectoral spots smaller, less conspicuous. Under surface of primaries more mottled with grayish. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4-1, 5. Wing, 20.50; tail, 9.15; culmen, 1.35; tarsus, 2.15; middle toe, 1.70.



12013, ♂.



12013, ♂.



17227, ♀.

*Pandion carolinensis*

HAB. Whole of North America, south to Panama; N. Brazil; Trinidad, Cuba, and other West India Islands.

Localities: Belize (SCL. Ibis, I, 215); Cuba (CAB. JOURN. II, lxxx, nests; GUNDL. Repert. Sept. 1865, I, 222); Bahamas (BRYANT, PR. BOST. SOC. VII, 1859); Panama (LAWR. VIII, 63); Trinidad (TAYLOR, Ibis, 1866, 79); Arizona (COUES, PR. A. N. S. 1866, 49); N. Brazil (PELZ. ORN. BRAS. I, 4).

In eight out of twelve North American adult specimens, there is but the slightest amount of spotting on the breast; in two of these (4,366, Puget Sound, and 12,014, Oregon), none whatever; in 17,228 (♂, Cape St. Lucas), 2,512 (♂ S. F. B. Carlisle, Pa.), 34,065 (♀, Realejo, Central America), and 5,837 (Fort Steilacoom), there is just a trace of these spots.

The specimens described are those having the breast most distinctly spotted. Specimens vary, in length of wing, from 17.50 to 20.50. There appears to be no sexual difference in size.

The distinctness or identity of the European and North American Ospreys can only be determined by the comparison of a very large series; this we have not been able to do, and although it is our belief that they should not be separated, the impressions received from a close inspection of the specimens before us (twenty-seven American and eighteen European) seem to indicate the propriety of distinguishing them as races.

The male of the pair described appears to be perfectly identical, in all respects except size, with a very perfect, finely mounted European male; indeed, the only discrepancy is in the size, the wing of the European bird being only nineteen inches, instead of twenty inches as in the American. The female, however, differs from European females in having the brown on the breast in the form of detached faint spots, instead of a continuous grayish-brown wash, more or less continuous.

The types of our descriptions are the only specimens of the American series which show even an approach to the amount of spotting on the breast constant in birds from Europe.

The American bird, as indicated by the series before us, would seem to be rather the larger; for the European specimens measure uniformly about an inch less than the American in length of the wing.

In all the American specimens, of both sexes, the shafts of the tail-feathers are continuously white, while in the European they are clear white only at the roots or for the basal half.

While, in consideration of the above facts, I am for the present compelled to recognize the American *Pandion* under the distinctive name of *carolinensis*, I may say, that, if any European birds occur with the breast immaculate,—no matter what the proportion of specimens,—I shall at once waive all claims to distinctness for the American bird.

LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 7; Philadelphia Academy, 3; New York Museum, 1 (Brazil); Boston Society, 6; Museum Cambridge, 9; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 1; Coll. R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 28.

Measurements.

Sex	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	19.00–20.50	10.00–10.50	1.35– .	2.25–2.40	1.80–1.85	5
♀	18.75–19.00	8.80– 9.50	1.25–1.35	2.00–2.25	1.70–1.80	4

Second and third quills longest; first shorter or longer than fifth.

**HABITS.** The Fish Hawk of North America, whether we regard it as a race or a distinct species from that of the Old World fauna, is found throughout the continent, from the fur regions around Hudson's Bay to Central America. According to Mr. Hill, it is seen occasionally in Jamaica, and, as I learn by letter from Dr. Gundlach, is also occasionally met with in the island of Cuba; but it is not known to breed in either place. Dr. Wood-

house, in his report of the expedition to the Zuñi River, speaks of this Hawk as common along the coasts of Texas and California. Dr. Heermann mentions it as common on the borders of all the large rivers of California in summer; and Dr. Gambel also refers to it as abundant along the coast of that State, and on its rocky islands, in which latter localities it breeds. I am not aware that it has ever been found farther south than Texas, on the eastern coast. On the Pacific coast it appears to have a more extended distribution both north and south, but nowhere to be so abundant as on certain parts of the Atlantic coast.

Mr. Biscoff obtained this species about Sitka, where he found it breeding, and took its eggs; and Mr. Dall procured several specimens near Nulato in May, 1867, and in 1868. They were not uncommon, frequenting the small streams, and were summer visitors, returning to the same nest each season. Colonel Grayson found it breeding as far south as the islands of the Tres Marias, in latitude  $31^{\circ} 30'$  north. The nest was on the top of a giant cactus. Mr. Xantus describes it as breeding on the ground at Cape St. Lucas.

In the interior it was met with by Richardson, but its migrations do not appear to reach the extreme northern limits of the continent. That observing naturalist saw nothing of this bird when he was coasting along the shores of the Arctic Sea, nor did Mr. Hearne find it on the barren grounds north of Fort Churchill. Its eggs were collected on the Mackenzie River by Mr. Ross, and on the Yukon by Messrs. Lockhart, Sibbiston, McDougal, and Jones. At Fort Yukon, Mr. Lockhart found it nesting on a high tree (S. I. 15,676).

On the Atlantic coast it is found from Labrador to Florida, with the exception of a portion of Massachusetts around Boston, where it does not breed, and where it is very rarely met with. It is most abundant from Long Island to the Chesapeake, and throughout this long extent of coast is very numerous, often breeding in large communities, to the number of several hundred pairs. Away from the coast it is much less frequent, but is occasionally met with on the banks of the larger rivers and lakes, and in such instances usually in solitary pairs. Dr. Hayden found it nesting in the Wind River Mountains on the top of a large cottonwood tree.



*Bald Eagle* (European specimen)



Mr. Allen reports this species as abundant everywhere in Florida, and as especially so around the lakes of the Upper St. Johns, where it commences nesting in January. At Lake Monroe he counted six nests from a single point of view. It is said by fishermen to occur on the coast of Labrador, but it is not cited as found there by Mr. Audubon, nor is it so given by Dr. Coues. It is, however, very common on the coast of Nova Scotia, breeding in the vicinity of most of the harbors. It is given by Mr. Boardman as common near Calais, where it arrives about the 10th of April, and remains until the middle of September. It is found along the whole coast more or less abundantly, especially near the heads of the numerous estuaries.

In Central America it is cited by Salvin as occurring abundantly on both the coast regions, and is particularly common about Belize, where it is believed to breed. It is said by Mr. Newton to be found on the island of St. Croix at all times except during the breeding-season. It was also occasionally seen at Trinidad by Mr. E. C. Taylor.

The Fish Hawk appears to subsist wholly on the fish which it takes by its own active exertions, plunging for them in the open deep, or catching them in the shallows of rivers where the depth does not permit a plunge. Its abundance is measured somewhat by its supply of food; and in some parts of the country it is hardly found, in others it appears in solitary pairs, and again in a few districts it is quite gregarious.

The American Fish Hawk is migratory in its habits, leaving our coasts early in the fall of the year, and returning soon after the close of the winter. Sir John Richardson states that the time of its arrival in the fur regions is as early as April, and on the coast it has been noticed in the middle of March. It breeds on the coast of Nova Scotia late in June, on that of Maine earlier in the same month, in New Jersey and Maryland in May, and still earlier in California.

It is said to arrive on the New Jersey coast with great regularity about the 21st of March, and to be rarely seen there after the 22d of September. It not unfrequently finds, on its first arrival, the ponds, bays, and estuaries ice-bound, and experiences some difficulty in procuring food. Yet I can find no instance on record where our Fish Hawk has been known to molest any other bird or land-animal, to feed on them, though their swiftness of flight, and their strength of wing and claws, would seem to render such attacks quite easy. On their arrival the Fish Hawks are said to combine, and to wage a determined war upon the White-headed Eagles, often succeeding by their numbers and courage in driving them temporarily from their haunts. But they never attack them singly.

The Fish Hawk nests almost invariably on the tops of trees, and this habit has been noticed in all parts of the country. It is not without exceptions, but these are quite rare. William H. Edwards, Esq., found one of their nests constructed near West Point, New York, on a high cliff overhanging the Hudson River. The trees on which their nests are built are not un-

frequently killed by their excrement or the saline character of their food and the materials of their nest. The bird is bold and confiding, often constructing its nest near a frequented path, or even upon a highway. Near the eastern extremity of the Wiscasset (Me.) bridge, and directly upon the stage-road, a nest of this Hawk was occupied several years. It was upon the top of a low pine-tree, was readily accessible, the tree being easily climbed, and was so near the road that, in passing, the young birds could frequently be heard in their nest, uttering their usual cries for food.

The nests are usually composed externally of large sticks, often piled to the height of five feet, with a diameter of three. In a nest described by Wilson, he found, intermixed with a mass of sticks, corn-stalks, sea-weed, wet turf, mullein-stalks, etc., the whole lined with dry sea-grass (*Zostera marina*), and large enough to fill a cart and be no inconsiderable load for a horse.

When the nest of this Hawk is visited, especially if it contain young, the male bird will frequently make violent, and sometimes dangerous, attacks upon the intruder. In one instance, in Maine, the talons of one of these Hawks penetrated through a thick cloth cap, and laid bare the scalp of a lad who had climbed to its nest, and very nearly hurled him to the ground. A correspondent quoted by Wilson narrates a nearly similar instance of courageous and desperate defence of the young. They are very devoted in their attentions to their mates, and supply them with food while on the nest. Wilson relates a touching instance of this devotion, where a female that had lost one leg, and was unable to fish for herself, was abundantly supplied by her mate.

In some localities the Fish Hawk nests in large communities, as many as three hundred pairs having been observed nesting on one small island. When a new nest is to be constructed, the whole community has been known to take part in its completion. They are remarkably tolerant towards smaller birds, and permit the Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus purpureus*) to construct its nests in the interstices of their own. Wilson observed no less than four of these nests thus clustered in a single Fish Hawk's nest, with a fifth on an adjoining branch.

The eggs of the Fish-Hawk are usually three in number, often only two, and more rarely four. They are subject to great variations as to their ground-color, the number, shade, and distribution of the blotches of secondary coloring with which they are marked, and also as to their size and shape. Their ground-color is most frequently a creamy-white, with a very perceptible tinge of red. This varies, however, from an almost pure shade of cream, without any admixture, to so deep a shade of red that white ceases to be noticeable. Their markings are combinations of an almost endless variation of shades of umber-brown, a light claret-brown, an intermingling of both these shades, with occasional intermixtures of purplish-brown. They vary in length from 2.56 to 2.24 inches, and in breadth from 1.88 to 1.69 inches.

It would be impossible to describe with any degree of preciseness the innumerable variations in size, shape, ground-color, or shades of markings, these eggs present. They all have a certain nameless phase of resemblance, and may be readily distinguished from any other eggs except those of their kindred. There are, however, certain shades of wine-colored markings in the eggs of the Fish Hawk of Europe, and also in that of Australia, that I have never noticed in any eggs of the American bird; but that this peculiarity is universal I am not able to say. The smallest egg of the *carolinensis* measures 2.31 by 1.62 inches; the largest, 2.56 by 1.88.

The European egg is smaller than the American, is often, but not always, more spherical, and is less pointed at the smaller end. Among its varieties is one which is quite common, and is very different from any I have ever observed among at least five hundred specimens of the American which I have examined.

An Osprey's egg in my collection, taken near Aarhus, in Denmark, by Rev. H. B. Tristram, of Castle Eden, England, measures only 2.12 inches in length, — shorter by a fourth of an inch than the smallest American, — in breadth 1.62 inches; its ground-color is a rich cream, with a slight tinge of claret, and it is marked over its whole surface with large blotches of a beautifully deep shade of chocolate.

In their habits the European and the American birds seem to present other decided differences. The American is a very social bird, often living in large communities during the breeding-season. The European is found almost invariably in solitary pairs, and frequents fresh water almost exclusively. The American, though found also on large rivers and lakes, is much the most abundant on the sea-shore. The European bird rarely builds on trees, the American almost always. The latter rarely resorts to rocky cliffs to breed, the European almost uniformly do so. There is no instance on record of the American species attacking smaller birds or inferior land animals with intent to feed on them. The European species is said to prey on Ducks and other wild-fowl.

#### GENUS **NAUCLERUS**, VIGORS.

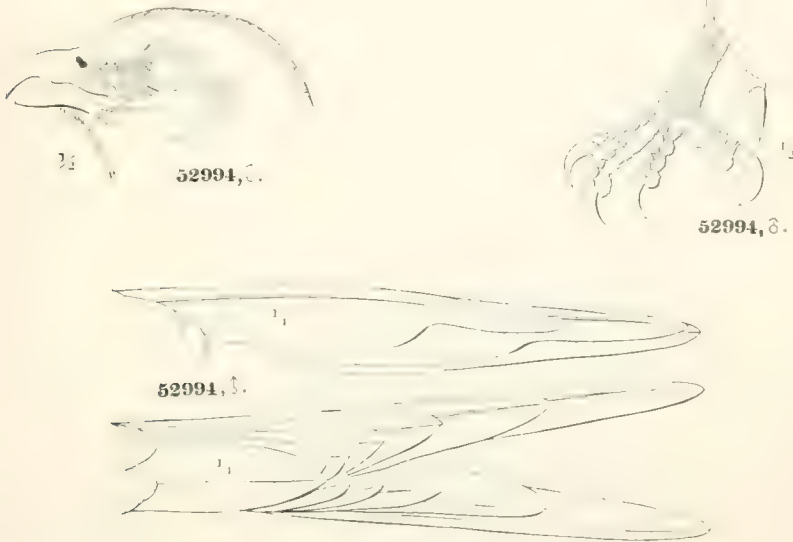
*Nauclerus*, VIG. 1825. (Type, *Falco furcatus*, LINN; *F. forficatus*, LINN.)

*Elanoides*, GRAY, 1848. (Same type.)

GEN. CHAR. Form swallow-like, the tail excessively lengthened and forked, and the wings extremely long. Bill rather small, and narrow; commissure faintly sinuated; upper outline of the lower mandible very convex, the depth of the mandible at the base being only about half that through the middle; gonys drooping terminally, nearly straight. Side of the head densely feathered close up to the eyelids. Nostril ovoid, obliquely vertical. Feet small, but robust; tarsus about equal to middle toe, covered with large, very irregular scales; toes with transverse scutellæ to their base; claws short, but strongly curved; grooved beneath, their edges sharp. Second or third quill longest; first shorter

than, equal to, or longer than, the fourth; two outer primaries with inner webs sinuated. Tail with the outer pair of feathers more than twice as long as the middle pair.

The genus contains but a single species, the *N. forficatus*, which is peculiarly American, belonging to the tropical and subtropical portions on both sides of the equator. The species is noted for the elegance of its form and the beauty of its plumage, as well as for the unsurpassed easy gracefulness



*Nauclerus forficatus.*

of its flight. It has no near relatives in the Old World, though the widely distributed genus *Milvus* represents it in some respects, while the singular genus *Chelictinia*, of Africa, resembles it more closely, but is much more intimately related to *Ictinia* and *Elanus*.

#### Species.

**N. forficatus.** Head, neck, entire lower surface, and band across the rump, immaculate snowy-white; upper surface plain polished blackish, with varying lights of dark purplish-bronze (on the back and shoulders) and bluish-slaty, with a green reflection in some lights. *Young*, with dusky shaft-streaks on the head and neck, and the feathers of the upper parts margined with white. Wing, 15.40–17.70; tail, 12.50–14.50; culmen, .70–.80; tarsus, 1.00–1.30; middle toe, 1.15–1.20. *Hab.* The whole of tropical, subtropical, and warm-temperate America. Accidental in England.



***Nauclerus forficatus*, LINN. RIDGWAY.****SWALLOW-TAILED HAWK; FORK-TAILED KITE.**

*Accipiter cauda furcata*, GATESBY, Carolina, I, pl. iv, 1754. *Falco forficatus*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 89, 1758. *Fulco furcatus*, LINN. Syst. Nat. p. 129, 1766. — PENN. Aret. Zool. p. 210, No. 198, pl. v. — GMEI. Syst. Nat. p. 262. *Nauclerus forficatus*, RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Phil. Dec. 1870, 144. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 152. — SHAW, Nat. Misc. pl. cciv; Zool. VII, 107. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. li, f. 3, 1808. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. 72, 1831; Orn. Biog. I, 368; V, 371. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 31; Isis, 1832, 1138. *Milvus furcatus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. x, 1807. *Elanoides furcatus*, GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. p. 44, 1844. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 141, 1855. — OWEN, Ibis, II, 1860, 240 (habits). *Nauclerus furcatus*, VIG. Zool. Journ. II, 387; Isis, 1830, p. 1043. — LESS. Man. Orn. I, 101; Tr. Orn. p. 73. — SWAINS. Classif. B. I, 312; II, 210, 1837. — BONAP. List, p. 4; Cat. Ucc. Eur. p. 20; Consp. Av. p. 21. — GOULD, B. Eur. pl. xxx. — AUD. Synop. p. 14, 1839. — RICH. Schomb. Reis. Brit. Guian. p. 735. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, p. 12, pl. vii, f. 15. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 1, pl. ix, f. 9; Gen. & Subgen. Brit. Mus. p. 6. — BREW. (WILS.) Synop. Am. Orn. p. 685. — WOODH. Sitgr. Exp. Zuñi & Colorado, p. 60. — KAUP, Monog. Falconidae, Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 57. — BREWER, Oölogy, I, 1857, 38. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 36. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. 1866, p. 12. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 525 (Texas, nesting). — GRAY, Hand List, I, 27, 1869. *Elanus furcatus*, VIG. Zool. Journ. I, 340. — STEPH. Zool. XIII, pl. ii, p. 49. — CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, p. 334. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 75. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 275. — JARD. Orn. Eur. p. 29. — NUTT. Man. p. 94. *Accipiter milvus carolinensis*, BRISS. Orn. I, 418, 1760. *Elanoides yetapa*, VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1205, 1823.

SP. CHAR. *Adult, male and female.* Whole head and neck, lining of wings, broad band across the rump, and entire lower parts, pure white. Interscapulars and lesser wing-coverts, rich, dark, soft, bronzed purplish-black. Rest of upper parts, including lower part of rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail, more metallic slaty-black, feathers somewhat greenish basally, more bluish terminally, with a peculiar, soft milky appearance, and with very smooth compact surface. Tertiaries almost entirely white, black only at tips. White on under side of wing occupying all the coverts, and the basal half of the secondaries. Wing, 15.40–17.70; tail, 12.50–14.50; tarsus, 1.00–1.30; middle toe, 1.15–1.20.

*Younger.* Similar, but with the beautiful soft purplish-bronzed black of shoulders and back less conspicuously different from the more metallic tints of other upper parts. *Young* (youngest? 18,457, Cantonment Burgwyn, New Mexico). The black above less slaty, with a brownish cast, and with a quite decided gloss of bottle-green; secondaries, primary coverts, primaries, and tail-feathers finely margined terminally with white. Feathers of the head and neck with fine shaft-lines of black.

HAB. Whole of South and Middle America, and southern United States; very rarely northward on Atlantic coast to Pennsylvania; along the Mississippi Valley to Minnesota and Wisconsin; breeding in Iowa (Sioux City) and Illinois; exceedingly abundant in August in southern portion of the latter State; Cuba; accidental in England.

Localities: Guatemala (SCH. Ibis, I, 217); Cuba (CAB. Journ. II, lxxxiii); Brazil (CAB. Journ. V, 41); Panama (LAWR. VII, 1861, 289); N. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 325, common, breeding); Veragua (SALV. 1867, 158); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 134); Minnesota (thirty miles north of Mille Lac, lat. 47°; TRIPPE, Birds of Minn., Pr. Essex Inst. VI, 1871, p. 113).

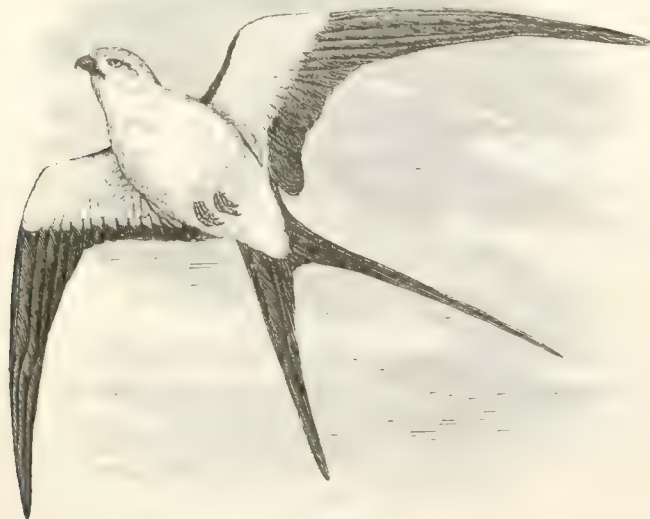
A pair marked as from England, 56,099, ♀, and 56,100, ♂, “*in England geschossen*”; Schlüter Collection) are smaller than the average of American

skins, the female measuring, wing, 15.50; tail, 13.00. The colors of this female, however, are as in American examples. The male has the plumage somewhat different from anything we have seen in the small series of American specimens. The whole upper parts are a polished violaceous slaty-black, this covering the back and lesser wing-coverts, as well as other upper parts. Were a large series of American specimens examined, individuals might perhaps be found corresponding in all respects with the pair in question.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 9; Philadelphia Academy, 3; New York Museum, 1 (Brazil); Boston Society, 1; Cambridge Museum, 2; Capt. G. N. Lawrence, 3; Coll. R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 23.

**HABITS.** The Swallow-tailed Hawk has an extended distribution in the eastern portion of North America. It is irregularly distributed; in a large



*Nauclerus torquatus*

part of the country it occurs only occasionally and in small numbers, and is probably nowhere abundant except in the southwestern Gulf States, or along the rivers and inland waters. On the Atlantic coast it has been traced, according to Mr. Lawrence, as far north as New York City. According to Mr. Nuttall, individuals have been seen on the Mississippi as far as St. Anthony's Falls, in latitude 44°. It is found more or less common along the tributaries of the Ohio and Mississippi, where it is essentially a prairie bird, and breeds in Southern Wisconsin, in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas, and throughout Illinois. It has been taken in Cuba, and occasionally also in Jamaica. It is found in Central America, and in South America to North-

ern Brazil, Buenos Ayres, and, according to Vieillot, to Peru. It nests in South Carolina and in all the States that border on the Gulf of Mexico, frequenting the banks of rivers, but is not found near the seaboard.

Mr. Thure Kumlien noticed a pair of these Hawks in the neighborhood of Fort Atkinson, Wis., in the summer of 1854, and had no doubt they were breeding, though he was not able to find their nest.

Mr. Osbert Salvin, in a letter from San Geronimo, in the Vera Paz (Ibis, 1860, p. 195), states that he has positive information that this Hawk breeds in the mountains about Coban, his chief collector having found a nest there with young the previous year. Specimens had been before that received by Mr. Schater, forwarded by Mr. Skinner, from the neighborhood of Cajabon, Guatemala. It was said to be more numerous at Belize.

Mr. Dresser informs us that he was so fortunate as to find this graceful bird very abundant in some parts of Texas, and he had a good opportunity of observing and admiring it in its true home. It was occasional about San Antonio de Bexar, where it was usually seen late in July before heavy rains. Near the Rio Grande or in Texas he did not see it at all. At Peach Creek and near Gonzales he found it not unfrequent; and on the Colorado, Brazos, and Trinity Rivers it was one of the most common birds. It only remains there during the summer months, arriving early in April, and breeding later than the other birds of prey. On the 26th of May he found them very abundant on a creek near the Colorado, but none had commenced breeding. They were preparing their nests; and, from the number he saw about one large grove, he judged that they breed in society. On his wounding one of them, the rest came flying over his head in the manner of Seagulls, uttering harsh cries; and he counted forty or fifty over him at one time. He was informed that these Kites build high up in oak, sycamore, or cottonwood trees, sometimes quite far from the creeks.

Mr. Dresser describes this bird as exhibiting a singularly pleasing appearance on the wing, gliding in large circles, without apparent effort, in very rapid flight. The tail is widely spread, and when sailing in circles the wings are almost motionless. One was noticed as it was hunting after grasshoppers. It went over the ground as carefully as a well-trained pointer, every now and then stooping to pick up a grasshopper, the feet and bill seeming to touch the insect simultaneously. They were very fond of wasp grubs, and would carry a nest to a high perch, hold it in one claw, and sit there picking out the grubs. Their stomachs were found to contain beetles and grasshoppers.

Dr. Woodhouse speaks of this Hawk as common in Texas, and also in the country of the Creek and Cherokee nations. He confirms the accounts which have been received of its fondness for the neighborhood of streams, and adds that along the Arkansas and its tributaries it was very abundant.

Mr. Ridgway states that this Hawk arrives in Richland County, Ill., in May, and lives during the summer on the small prairies, feeding there

upon small snakes, particularly the little green snake (*Leptophis aestivus*) and the different species of *Eutania*. It builds its nest there among the oak or hickory trees which border the streams intersecting the prairies. Towards the latter part of summer it becomes very abundant on the prairies, being attracted by the abundance of food, which at that season consists very largely of insects, especially *Neuroptera*. It is most abundant in August, and in bright weather dozens of them may be seen at a time sailing round in pursuit of insects.

Mr. Audubon speaks of the movements of this bird in flight as astonishingly rapid, the deep curves they describe, their sudden doublings and crossings, and the extreme ease with which they seem to cleave the air, never failing to excite admiration. In the States of Louisiana and Mississippi, where, he adds, these birds are very abundant, they arrive in large companies in the beginning of April, and utter a sharp and plaintive note. They all come from the westward; and he has counted upwards of a hundred, in the space of an hour, passing over him in an easterly direction. They feed on the wing, and their principal food is said to be grasshoppers, caterpillars, small snakes, lizards, and frogs. They sweep over the fields, and seem to alight for a moment to secure a snake or some other object. They also frequent the creeks, to pick up water-snakes basking on the floating logs.

On the ground their movements are said to be awkward in the extreme. When wounded, they rarely strike with their talons, or offer serious resistance. They never attack other birds or quadrupeds to prey upon them.

This Hawk is a great wanderer, and a number of instances are on record of its having been taken in Europe. One of these was in Scotland, in 1772; another in England, in 1805.

Mr. R. Owen (*Ibis*, 1860, p. 241), while travelling from Coban to San Geronimo, in Guatemala, among the mountains, came suddenly upon a large flock of two or three hundred of these Hawks, which were pursuing and preying upon a swarm of bees. At times they passed within four or five yards of him. Every now and then the neck was observed to be bent slowly and gracefully, bringing the head quite under the body. At the same time the foot, with the talons contracted as if grasping some object, would be brought forward to meet the beak. The beak was then seen to open and to close again, and then the head was again raised and the foot thrown back. This movement was repeatedly observed, and it was quite clear to him that the birds were preying upon the bees.

This Hawk constructs its nest on tall trees, usually overhanging or near running water. The nest is like that of the Crow in its general appearance. It is constructed externally of dry twigs and sticks, intermixed with which are great quantities of the long Spanish moss peculiar to the Southern States, and lined with dry grasses, leaves, and feathers. One found by Dr. C. Kollock, of Cheraw, S. C., in May, 1855, containing young, was on a large tree, not near the trunk, but on one of the projecting branches, and difficult of approach.



The eggs are described by Mr. Audubon as from four to six in number, of a greenish-white color, with a few irregular blotches of dark brown at the larger end. The drawing of an egg, obtained by Dr. Trudeau in Louisiana, and which was made by that gentleman, is very nearly spheroidal, and its measurements are, length 1.75 inches, breadth 1.56. It corresponds with Mr. Audubon's description of the egg of this Hawk.

An egg in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, taken in Iowa by Mr. Krider, does not correspond very well with the description and figure mentioned. It measures 1.80 in length by 1.40 in breadth; its form is very regularly oval, both ends being of nearly the same shape. The ground-color is a creamy white, one end (the smaller) splashed with large confluent blotches of ferruginous, and the remainder of the surface more sparsely spotted with the same; these rusty blotches are relieved by smaller, sparser spots of very dark brown.

Dr. Cooper, in a letter dated Sioux City, May 21, 1860, mentions finding the nest of this Hawk in a high tree in Northwestern Iowa, latitude  $41^{\circ} 30'$ . The bird had not begun to lay.

#### GENUS **ELANUS**, SAVIGNY.

*Elanus*, SAV. 1809. (Type, *Falco melanopterus*, DAUDIN.)

*Milans*, BOIE, 1822.

GEN. CHAR. Bill rather small and narrow, the tip normal; commissure moderately sinuated; upper outline of lower mandible greatly arched, the height at base less than half that through middle; gonys almost straight, declining downward toward tip. Nostril roundish, in middle of cere. Tarsus and toes (except terminal joint) covered with small roundish scales; under surface of claws just perceptibly flattened; sharp lateral



ridge on middle claw very prominent; a very slight membrane between outer and middle toes. Second quill longest, third very slightly shorter; first just exceeding fourth; second and third with outer webs slightly sinuated; inner web of first emarginated, of second sinuated. Tail peculiar, emarginated, but the lateral feather much shorter than the middle, the one next to it being the longest.

The species of this well-marked genus are confined to the tropical and subtropical portions of the world, and appear to be only two in number, of which one is cosmopolitan, and the other peculiar to the Old World.

## Species and Races.

**COMMON CHARACTERS.** Above partly ash, becoming white or whitish on the head and tail, with a large black patch covering the lesser-covert region. Lower surface continuous pure white; a black spot on front of, and partly around, the eye.

1. ***E. leucurus*.** A large black patch on the lining of the wing, in the region of the primary coverts. First quill very much shorter than the third; second quill longest.

Black patch on lining of the wing restricted to the primary coverts; lesser coverts, on outer surface, not conspicuously bordered anteriorly with white.

Above deep bluish-ash, with the inner webs of the secondaries appreciably paler, sometimes abruptly white. Wing, 11.60–12.65; tail, 6.80–7.80; culmen, .65–.80; tarsus, 1.20–1.50; middle toe, .94–1.20. *Hab.* Tropical and subtropical America. . . . . var. *leucurus*.

Above pale ash, with the inner webs of the secondaries hardly, or not at all, appreciably paler than the outer. Wing, 11.00–12.50; tail, 6.20–7.00; culmen, .70–.77; tarsus, 1.10–1.66; middle toe, 1.05–1.08. *Hab.* Western Australia. . . . . var. *axillaris*.<sup>1</sup>

Black patch on the lining of the wing extending over the whole of the lesser coverts; lesser coverts, on the outside, conspicuously bordered anteriorly with white.

Similar to var. *axillaris*, except as above. Wing, 11.75–12.30; tail, 6.30–7.00; culmen, .75–.80; tarsus, 1.10–1.40; middle toe, 1.15–1.25. *Hab.* Southern Australia. . . . . var. *scriptus*.<sup>2</sup>

2. ***E. cæruleus*.** No black on lining of the wing. First quill usually longer than the third, never very much shorter; second longest. Colors darker than in *E. leucurus*.

Wing, 12.00; tail, 6.10; culmen, .75; tarsus, 1.25; middle toe, 1.20. No ashy tinge on side of breast. *Hab.* Southern Europe and North Africa. . . . . var. *cæruleus*.<sup>3</sup>

Wing, 9.50–10.70; tail, 5.40–5.75; culmen, .65–.70; tarsus, 1.05–1.10; middle toe, 1.00–1.10. Sides of the breast strongly tinged with ashy. *Hab.* Southern Africa and India. . . . . var. *minor*.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Elanus leucurus*, var. *axillaris* (LATHAM). *Falco axillaris*, LATH. — N. S. WALES, DRAW. I. No. 49, 1801. *Circus axillaris*, VIEILL. N. D. IV, 453. *Elanus axillaris*, GRAY, ANN. N. H. XI, 189. — IB. Hand List, I, 28, No. 261. *Elanus notatus*, GOULD, B. Aust. I, pl. xxiii.

*Specimens examined.* — Nat. Mus., 3; Boston Soc., 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Elanus leucurus*, var. *scriptus* (GOULD). *Elanus scriptus*, GOULD, P. Z. S. pl. x, 1842, 80. — BONAP. CONSP. 22. — KAUP, Monog. Falc. in Jardine's Contr. Orn. 1850, 60. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 28, No. 262.

*Specimens examined.* — Mus. Comp. Zool., Cambridge, 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Elanus cæruleus*, var. *cæruleus* (DESFONTAINES). *Falco cæruleus*, DESFONT. Mém. Ac. Sc. 1787, 503, pl. xv. *Elanus cæruleus*, STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 1855, 137. *Falco melanopterus*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 1800, 152. *Elanus melanopterus*, LEACH, Zool. Misc. pl. cxxii. — GOULD, B. Eur. pl. xxxi. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 28, No. 258. *Falco clamosus*, SHAW, Zool. VII, 200. *Elanus casius*, SAVIGNY, Des. r. Egypt. pl. i, p. 98. *Elanoides casius*, VIEILL. Enc. Meth. III, 1296.

*Specimens examined.* — Nat. Mus., 2 (Southern Europe).

<sup>4</sup> *Elanus cæruleus*, var. *minor* (BONAP.). *Falco cæruleus*, LATH. Ind. Orn. 1790, 16. / *Falco somaliensis*, LATH. Ind. Orn. Supp. 1801, 12. *Elanus minor*, BONAP. CONSP. 1850, p. 22. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 28, No. 259.

*Specimens examined.* — Am. Mus., N. Y., 4 (2 India, 2 Africa); Boston Soc., 4 (3 Juv.); Mus. Comp. Zool., Cambridge, 2. Total, 10.

**Elanus leucurus (VIEILLOT).****BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE; WHITE-TAILED KITE.**

V. *leucurus*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. XX, 566, 1816; Enc. Méth. III, 1205, 1823. *Elanoides leucurus*, Vieill. Enc. Méth. III, 1205, 1823. *Elanus leucurus*, BONAP. *Ill. & N. Am. Birds*, p. 4, 1838; *Comp. Av.* p. 22, 1850. — GRAY, *Cat. B.* fol. sp. 4, 1844; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 46, 1844. — RICH. SCHOMB. Reis. Brit. Guiana, p. 735. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. p. 106, 1854; Birds N. Am. 1858, 37. — KAUP, Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 60. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. VII, 31, 1857. — COOP. & STICK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, ii, 149, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 12, 1866. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 138, 1855. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 28, 1869. *Falco melanopterus*, BONAP. Journ. Ac. Phil. V, 28; Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 31; Isis, 1832, p. 1137. *Milvus dispar*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 99, 1828. *Falco dispar*, BONAP. Am. Orn. pl. xi, f. 1, 1825; Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 435. — AUD. Am. B. pls. cccli, ccclvii; Orn. Biog. IV, 367, 1831. — TEMM. pl. cl. 319 (*Juv.*). — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. IV, 13, 1831. *Elanus dispar*, CUV. Reg. An. (ed. 2), I, 334, 1829. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 72, 1831. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. III, 378, 1832. — BRIDG. Proc. Zool. Soc. pt. ii, p. 109; Ann. Nat. Hist. XIII, 500. — AUD. Syn. B. p. 13, 1831. — BREW. (WILS.) Synop. p. 685, 1852. — NUTT. Man. p. 93, 1833. *E. leucurus*, BREWER, Oölogy.

SP. CHAR. *Adult*. Upper surface, including occiput, nape, interscapulars, scapulars, rump, upper tail-coverts, and wings (except lesser and middle coverts), soft, delicate, rather light bluish-cinereous, becoming gradually white on anterior portion of the head above. Rest of the head, with the tail, lining of the wing, and entire lower parts, pure white, sometimes with a very faint tinge of pale pearl-blue, laterally beneath; two middle tail-feathers ashy, but much lighter than the rump; shafts of tail-feathers black, except toward ends. Bristly loreal feathers (forming ante-orbital spot, extending narrowly above the eye), a very large patch on the shoulder, covering lesser and middle wing-coverts, and large quadrate spot on under side of wing (on first row of primary coverts), deep black. Under side of primaries deep cinereous (darker than outer surface); under surface of secondaries nearly white. Second quill longest; third scarcely shorter (sometimes equal, or even longest); first longer than fourth. Tail slightly emarginated, the longest feather (next to outer) being about .50 longer than the middle, and .60 (or more) longer than the lateral, which is shortest.

*Male*. Wing, 12.50; tail, 7.10; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, 1.15.

*Female*. Wing, 12.80; tail, 7.10; tarsus, 1.45; middle toe, 1.35.

Specimens not perfectly adult have the primary coverts, secondaries, and inner primaries, slightly tipped with white.

Still younger individuals have these white tips broader, the tail more ashy, and the upper parts with numerous feathers dull brown, tipped narrowly with white; the breast with sparse longitudinal touches of brownish.

*Young* (♀, 48,826, Santiago, Chile, May, 1866; Dr. Philippi). Occiput and nape thickly marked with broad streaks of dusky, tinged with rusty; scapulars umber-brown, tipped with rusty; all the feathers of wings narrowly tipped with white; tail-feathers with a subterminal irregular bar of dark ashy; breast tinged with rufous, and with badly defined cuneate spots of deeper rusty. Wing, 12.25; tail, 7.50. (Perhaps not the youngest stage.)

HAB. Tropical and warm temperate America (except the West Indies), from Chile and Buenos Ayres to Florida, South Carolina, Southern Illinois, and California; winter resident in latter State.

Localities: Xalapa (SCL. 1857, 201); Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I, 220); Brazil (PELZ. Orn. Bras. I, 6); Buenos Ayres (SCL. & SALV. 1869, 160); Venezuela (SCL. & SALV. 1869, 252).

Specimens are from Santa Clara, California, Fort Arbuckle, Mirador and Orizaba, Mexico, Chile, and Buenos Ayres ; from all points the same bird.

This species presents a very close resemblance to the *E. melanopterus* of Europe, and the most evident specific difference can only be detected by raising the wing, the under side of which is quite different in the two, there being in the European bird no trace whatever of the black patch so conspicuous in the American species. The primaries, also, on both webs are lighter ash, while the ash of the upper parts in general is darker than in *leucurus* and invades more the head above, the forehead merely approaching white. The tail is more deeply emarginated, and the proportions of the primaries are quite different, the second being much longer than the third, and the first nearly as long as the second, far exceeding the third, instead of being about equal to the fourth. In the *melanopterus*, too, the black borders the eye all round, extending back in a short streak from the posterior angle, instead of being restricted to the anterior region and upper eyelid, as in *leucurus*.

A specimen of "*E. axillaris*" from Australia (13,844, T. R. Peale) appears, except upon close examination, to be absolutely identical in all the minutiae of coloration, and in the wing-formula, with *E. leucurus* ; and differs only very slightly in the measurements of bill and feet, having these proportionally larger, as will be seen from the table. Another (32,577, H. Mactier Warfield) has the upper parts so pale as to be nearly white.

A young specimen of *E. axillaris* differs from that of *E. leucurus* as follows : the occiput, nape, and dorsal region are stained or overlaid by dull ashy-rufous, instead of dark brownish-ashy ; more blackish on the head. No other differences are appreciable.

A very characteristic distinction between *leucurus* and *axillaris* is seen in the coloration of the inner webs of the secondaries : in the former, they are abruptly lighter than the outer webs, often pure white, in very striking contrast to the deep ash of the outer surface ; in the latter, both webs are of about the same shade of ash, which is much paler than in the other race. Occasional specimens of *leucurus* occur, however, in which there is little difference in tint between the two webs.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 10 ; Philadelphia Academy, 2 ; New York Museum, 2 ; Boston Society, 4 ; Cambridge Museum, 2 ; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 2 ; Coll. R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 24.

#### Measurements.

Sex	Wing.	Tail	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	11.80-12.50	7.30-7.60	.66-.80	1.30-1.50	1.00-1.15	8
♀	11.60-12.65	7.20-7.80	.70-.72	1.25-1.40	1.10-1.20	8



**HABITS.** The Black-shouldered Hawk is a southern, western, and South American species. On the Pacific it is found to occupy a much more north-

ern range of locality than in the eastern States, where it is not found above South Carolina and Southern Illinois. Specimens have been taken near San Francisco in midwinter.



*Elanus lucurus*

Several individuals of this species, precisely identical with others from the United States, were taken by Lieutenant Gilliss, in the astronomical expedition to Chile. Its range in South America does not appear to be confined, as was supposed, to the western coast, as specimens are recorded by Von Pelzeln as having been obtained by Natterer in Brazil, at Ytarare, Irisanga, and San Joaquin, on the Rio Branco, in August, February, and January. These were taken

on the heights. They are also found in the countries of Mexico and Central America.

This species has been met with in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and probably occurs also in New Mexico and Arizona. Dr. Gambel describes them as very abundant in California, where they are said to be familiar in their habits, and breed in clumps of oaks, in the immediate vicinity of habitations. Dr. Heermann also speaks of them as common in that State. But neither of these naturalists appears to have met with their nests or eggs. It is not mentioned either as a bird of Cuba or Jamaica by Mr. Lembeye, Dr. Gundlach, Mr. Gosse, or Mr. March.

Dr. Cooper speaks of this bird as a beautiful and harmless species, quite abundant in the middle districts of California, remaining in large numbers, during winter, among the extensive tulé marshes of the Sacramento and other valleys. He did not meet with any during winter at Fort Mohave, nor do they seem to have been collected by any one in the dry interior of that State, nor in the southern part of California. He has met with them as far north as Baulines Bay, and near Monterey, but always about streams or marshes. Their food consisted entirely of mice, gophers, small birds, and snakes, and they were not known to attack the inmates of the poultry-yard.

Bonaparte, who first introduced the species into our fauna, received his specimen from East Florida. The late Dr. Ravenel obtained one living near Charleston, S. C., which he kept several days without being able to induce it

to eat. Mr. Audubon received another, taken forty miles west of Charleston by Mr. Francis Lee. This gentleman, as quoted by Audubon, mentioned it sailing very beautifully, and quite high in the air, over a wet meadow, in pursuit of snipe. It would poise itself in the manner of the common Sparrow Hawk, and, suddenly closing its wings, plunge towards its prey with great velocity, making a peculiar sound with its wings as it passed through the air. Its cries on being wounded resembled those of the Mississippi Kite. It was so shy that Mr. Lee was only able to approach it on horseback.

Audubon states that Mr. Ward, his assistant, found this species breeding on the Santee River early in the month of March. Their nests were said to be placed on low trees near the margin of the river, and to be not unlike those of the common Crow, but without the substantial lining of its nests. Mr. Ward also mentioned seeing them flying over the cane-brakes, in pursuit of large insects, in the manner of the Mississippi Kite, and finding the birds very shy.

In Southern Illinois it has been known to occur as far north as Mount Carmel, where Mr. Ridgway saw a pair in July, flying about among the dead trees bordering a lagoon near the Wabash River.

Mr. Audubon, in his visit to Texas, saw several of these birds flying at a small elevation over the large marshes, and coursing in search of its prey in the manner of the common Marsh Harrier.

Dr. Heermann found the extensive marshes of Suisun, Napa, and Sacramento Valleys the favorite resorts of these birds, especially during the winter, and there they seemed to find a plentiful supply of insects and mice. They ranged over their feeding-grounds in small flocks from a single pair up to six or seven. He fell in with an isolated couple in the mountains between Elizabeth Lake and Williamson's Pass, hovering over a small freshwater marsh. In July and August the young were quite abundant, from which Dr. Heermann inferred that it does not migrate for the purposes of incubation. Dr. Gambel, who procured his specimens at the Mission of St. John, near Monterey, describes it as flying low and circling over the plains in the manner of a *Circus*, and as feeding on the small birds. It was easy of approach when perched on trees, and uttered a loud shrill cry when wounded, and fought viciously.

Lieutenant Gilliss, who found them in Chile, describes the nest as composed of small sticks, and states that the number of the eggs is from four to six, and that they are of a dirty yellowish-white with brownish spots. The common name of this Hawk in Chile is *Bailarin* (from the verb *bailar*, to dance or balance), from the graceful and easy manner in which it seems almost to float upward or to sink in the air.

An egg of this species, in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History, measures 1.64 inches in length by 1.48 in breadth. In shape it is very nearly spherical, and equally obtuse at either end. The ground-color,

though nowhere very distinctly apparent, appears to be of a dull white, strongly tinged with a reddish hue. Distributed over the entire egg are broad deep flashes of a dark mahogany-brown, intermingled with others of a similar color, but lighter in shading. These cover the egg more or less completely, in the greater portion of its surface. This egg was taken near Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory, May 9, 1861, by J. H. Clark, Esq., and sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

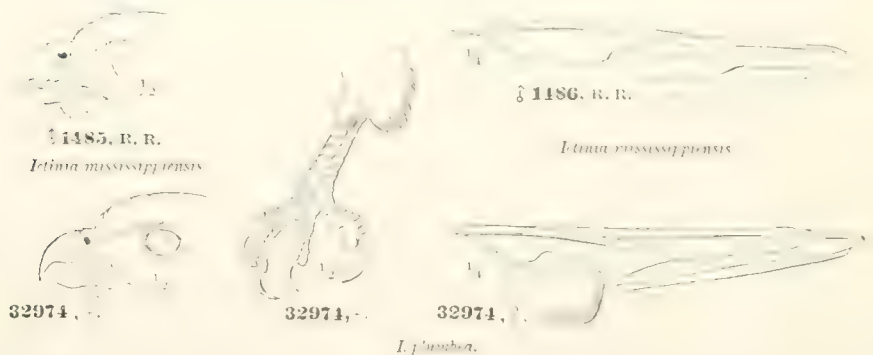
#### GENUS **ICTINIA**, VIEILL.

*Ictinia*, Vieill. 1816. (Type, *Elanus mississippiensis*, Wilson.)

*Actinia*, Bon. 1826. (Type, *Elanus plumbeus*, Gmelin.)

*Parilopteryx*, Kaup, 1844. (Same type.)

GEN. CHAR. Form hawk-like; the neck short, wings long, and pointed, the primaries and rectrices strong and stiff, and the organization robust. Bill short and deep, the commissure irregularly toothed, and notched; gonys very convex, ascending terminally; cere narrow; nostril very small, nearly circular; feet small, but robust; tarsus about equal to



middle toe, with a distinct frontal series of broad transverse scutellæ; claws rather short, but strongly curved, slightly grooved beneath, their edges sharp. Third quill longest; first of variable proportion with the rest. Tail moderate, the feathers wide, broader terminally, and emarginated.

This genus is peculiar to America, the two most closely related genera being *Elanus* on the one hand and *Harpagus* on the other. Its species belong to the tropical and subtropical regions, one of them (*I. plumbea*) generally distributed throughout the intertropical portions, the other (*I. mississippiensis*) peculiar to Mexico and the southern United States.

In their habits, they are very aerial, like the genus *Nauclerus*, sailing for the greater time in broad circles overhead, occasionally performing graceful evolutions as they gyrate about. Like *Nauclerus*, they are also partially gregarious, and, like it, feed chiefly on insects and small reptiles, which they eat while flying.

#### Species.

COMMON CHARACTERS. *Adult*. Uniform plumbeous, becoming lighter (whitish) on the head, and darker (blackish) on the primaries and tail. Inner webs of

primaries with more or less rufous. *Young.* Beneath whitish, striped longitudinally with brownish; above much variegated; tail with several narrow whitish bands.

**1. *I. mississippiensis.*** *Adult.* Wings lighter than the tail, the secondaries hoary whitish; inner webs of primaries with only obscure spots of rufous, the outer webs with a very obscure stripe of the same. Tail wholly black. *Young.* Stripes beneath reddish-umber; lower tail-coverts with longitudinal shaft-streaks of the same. Second to third quills longest; first shorter than seventh and longer than sixth. Wing, 10.60-12.30; tail, 6.00-7.00; culmen, .60-.65; tarsus, 1.30-1.55; middle toe, 1.00-1.10. *Hab.* Prairies and savannas of the southern United States and Northern Mexico, from Wisconsin and Georgia to Mirador.

**2. *I. plumbea*¹** *Adult.* Wing concolor with the tail, the secondaries black; inner webs of the primaries almost wholly rufous; outer webs with only a trace of rufous. Tail with about three bands of pure white, formed by transverse spots on the inner webs. *Young.* Stripes beneath brownish-black; lower tail-coverts transversely spotted with the same; upper parts darker. Third quill longest; first shorter or longer than the seventh. Tail more nearly square. Wing, 10.50-12.20; tail, 5.60-6.80; culmen, .62-.70; tarsus, 1.15-1.50; middle toe, 1.00-1.05. *Hab.* Tropical America, from Paraguay to Southern Mexico.

## **Ictinia mississippiensis (WILSON).**

### **MISSISSIPPI KITE; BLUE KITE.**

*Falco mississippiensis*, WILS. Am. Orn. pl. 25, f. 1, 1808. — LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 275. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 72, 1831. *Nertus mississippiensis*, BOIE, Isis, 1828, 314. *Milvus mississippiensis*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 335, 1829. *Ictinia mississippiensis*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 2; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 48, 1844; Gen. & Sub-Gen. Brit. Mus. p. 6, 1855. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. p. 106, 1854. — KAUP, Ueb. Falk. Mus. Senck. p. 258, 1845; Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 57. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 140, 1855. — BREWER, Oology, I, 1857, 41. — COULTS, Prod. Orn. Atiz. p. 13, 1866. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 327 (Texas). — GRAY, Hand List, I, 28, 1869. *Falco plumbeus*, AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 108, pl. cxvii; V, p. 374, 1831. *Ictinia plumbea*, BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 4, 1838; Ann. N. Y. Lyc. II, 30; Isis, 1832, p. 1137. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 368, pl. 25, f. 1, 1832. — BREW. (WILS.) Synop. 685, 1852. — AUD. Synop. B. Am. p. 11, 1839. — WOODH. (Sitgr.) Exp. Zuni & Colorad. p. 61, 1853. — NUTT. Man. 92, 1833.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (No. 1,486, Coll. R. Ridgway, Richland Co., Ill., August 19, 1871). Head, neck, secondaries, and entire lower parts plumbeous-ash, becoming, by a gradual transition, lighter on the head and secondaries, where the shade is pale cinereous; the head anteriorly, and the tips of the secondaries, being silvery-white. Lores and eye-lobes black. Rest of the plumage dark plumbeous, approaching plumbeous-black on the

¹ *Ictinia plumbea* (GMEL.). *Falco plumbeus*, GMEL. S. N. 1789, 283. *Ictinia plumbea*, VIEILL. 1816, 24. — GRAY, Hand List, I. *Nertus plumbeus*, BOIE, Isis, 1828, 314. *Pocilopteryx plumbeus*, KAUP, Ueb. Falk. Mus. Senck. 1845, 258. *Milvus cenchrus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. 1807, pl. x. *Butco cenchrus*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 1829, 337.

*Specimens examined.* — National Museum, 4; Philadelphia Academy, 4; New York Museum, 4; Boston Society, 4; Museum Comp. Zool., 1; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 2; Coll. R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 20.



lesser wing-coverts, primaries, and upper tail-coverts, the tail being nearly pure black. Primaries with an indistinct narrow concealed stripe of chestnut-rufous on the outer webs, and larger spots of the same on the inner webs; feathers of the head, neck, and lower parts abruptly pure white beneath the surface, this showing in partially exposed spots on the pectoral region and crissum. Scapulars also with large concealed white spots. Shafts of primaries and tail-feathers black on both sides. Wing-formula, 3, 2-4-5-6, 1. First primary angularly, the second concavely, emarginated. Tail emarginated, lateral feather longest; depth of fork, .40. Wing, 11.75; tail, 6.80; culmen, .63; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, 1.15.

*Adult female* (No. 1,487. Coll. Ridgway, Richland Co., Ill. August 19, 1871). Similar to the male, but head and secondaries decidedly darker, hardly approaching light ash; scarcely any trace of rufous on the primaries, none at all on outer webs; shafts of tail-feathers white on under side. Wing, 11.80; tail, 7.25. Bill, cere, eyelids, and interior of mouth, deep black; iris deep lake-red; rictus orange-red; tarsi and toes pinkish orange-red; lower part of tarsus and large scutellæ of toes dusky. (Notes from fresh specimens, the ones above described.)

*Immature male* (transition plumage; 1,488, Coll. Ridgway, Richland Co., Ill., August 21, 1871.) Similar to the adult female, but the white spots on basal portion of pectoral and crissal feathers distinctly exposed; secondaries not lighter than rest of the wing. Tail-feathers with angular white spots extending quite across the inner webs, producing three distinct transverse bands when viewed from below. Inner web of outer primary mostly white anterior to the emargination. Wing, 10.50; tail, 6.25. Color of bill, etc., as in the adult, but interior of mouth whitish, and the iris less pure carmine.

*Immature female* (Coll. Philadelphia Academy, Red Fork of the Arkansas, 1850; Dr. Woodhouse). Similar to the last. Wing, 11.10; tail, 6.31.

*Young female* (first plumage; Coll. Philadelphia Academy, North Fork Canadian River, September 19, 1851; Dr. Woodhouse). Head, neck, and lower parts white, with a yellowish tinge; this most perceptible on the tibiae. Each feather with a medial longitudinal ovate spot of blackish-brown; more reddish on the lower parts. The chin, throat, and a broad superciliary stripe, are immaculate white. Lower tail-coverts each with a medial acuminate spot of rusty, the shaft black. Upper parts brownish-black; wing-coverts, scapulars, and interscapulars, feathers of the rump, and the upper tail-coverts, narrowly bordered with ochraceous-white, and with concealed quadrate spots of the same; primary coverts, secondaries, and primaries sharply bordered terminally with pure white. Tail black (faintly whitish at the tip), with three (exposed) obscure bands of a more slaty tint; this changing to white on the inner webs, in the form of angular spots forming the bands. Lining of the wing pale ochraceous, transversely spotted with rusty rufous; under primary-coverts with transverse spots of white. Wing, 11.90; tail, 6.40.

HAB. Central Mexico and Southern United States; common as far north as Georgia (accidental in Pennsylvania, VINCENT BARNARD), on the Atlantic coast, and Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, in the Mississippi Valley. Exceedingly abundant summer bird on the prairies of Southern Illinois.

Localities: Coban (SALVIN, Ibis, III, 1861, 355); E. and N. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 327); Chester Co., Pa. (breeds; BARNARD.)

LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 6; Philadelphia Academy, 4; New York Museum, 1; Cambridge Museum, 1; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 1; R. Ridgway, 3. Total, 16.

Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	10.60-11.85	6.00-6.80	.60-.65	1.35-1.55	1.00-1.10	6
♀	11.30-12.30	6.50-7.00	.60-.65	1.30-1.40	1.00-1.05	5

**HABITS.** This Hawk appears to be confined to the extreme southern and southwestern portion of the Gulf States. It is not known to occur farther north than South Carolina on the Atlantic, though on the Mississippi it has been traced much farther north. It is most abundant about the Mississippi. It was first discovered by Wilson near Natchez, where he found it quite abundant. Mr. Say afterwards observed it far up the Mississippi, at one of Major Long's cantonments. On Captain Sitgreave's expedition to the Zuñi and Colorado Rivers, it was found to be exceedingly abundant in Eastern Texas, as well as in the Indian Territory, more particularly on the Arkansas River and its tributaries.

Dresser states that he found this Hawk by no means an unfrequent bird in Texas, and generally in the same localities with the *Nauclerus forficatus*. It was not very common near San Antonio, but was occasionally found, and even breeds there, as he procured both the old and the young birds during the summer. In travelling eastward in the month of May, he first noticed them near the Rio Colorado, and was told by the negroes on one of the plantations that they were then nesting. On the 20th of May he shot a female on the banks of that river, from which he extracted a fully formed egg. It was almost round, and rather large for the size of the bird. Eastward from the Colorado he also saw this Hawk quite often.



*Ictinia mississippiensis.*

Though the species, no doubt, occurs in Mexico, Mr. Scater states that all the Mexican *Ictiniae* which he has seen, collected by Sallé, Boucard, and others, have belonged to *I. plumbea* (Ibis, 1860, p. 104). A single specimen from Coban, Central America, was obtained by Mr. Salvin, but *I. plumbea* was by far the most common species of *Ictinia* in Vera Paz.

This species was first discovered within the territory of the United States by Wilson, in his visit to Natchez. He had noticed the bird sailing about in easy circles, and at a considerable height in the air, generally in company with the Turkey Buzzards, whose manner of flight it almost exactly imitated, so much so as to make it appear either a miniature of that species, or like one of them at a great distance, both being observed to soar at great heights previous to a storm. Wilson conjectures that this apparent similarity of manner of flight may be attributable to their pursuit of their respective kinds of food, — the Buzzard on the lookout for carrion, and the birds of the present species in search of those large beetles that are known to fly in the

higher regions of the air, and which, in the three individuals dissected by him, were the only substances found in their stomachs. For several miles, as he passed near Bayou Manaliak, the trees were swarming with a kind of *Cicada*, or locust, that made a deafening noise. He there observed a number of these birds sweeping about among the trees in the manner of Swallows, evidently in pursuit of the insects, which proved indeed, on dissection, to be their principal food.

One of these Hawks was slightly wounded by Wilson, and though disabled and precipitated from a great height exhibited evidence of great strength and an almost unconquerable spirit. As he approached to pick it up, the bird instantly gave battle, striking rapidly with its claws, wheeling round and round, and defending itself with great vigilance and dexterity, while its dark red eye sparkled with rage. His captor wished to preserve it alive, but, notwithstanding all his precautions in seizing it, the Hawk struck one of its claws into his hand with great force, and this could only be disengaged by Wilson's dividing the sinew of the heel with a pen-knife. As long as the bird afterwards lived with Wilson, it seemed to watch every movement, erecting the feathers of the back of its head, and eying him with a savage fierceness. Wilson was much struck with its great strength, its extent of wing, its energy of character, and its ease and rapidity of flight.

Audubon regards this species as remarkable for its devotion to its young, and narrates that in one instance he saw the female bird lift up and attempt to carry out of his reach one of her fledglings. She carried it in her claws the distance of thirty yards or more.

He also describes their flight as graceful, vigorous, and protracted. At times the bird seems to float in the air as if motionless, or sails in broad and regular circles, then, suddenly closing its wings, is seen to slide along to some distance, and then renews its curves. At other times it sweeps in long undulations with the swiftness of an arrow, passing within touching distance of a branch on which it seeks an insect. Sometimes it is said to fly in hurried zigzags, and at others to turn over and over in the manner of a Tumbler Pigeon. Audubon has often observed it make a dash at the Turkey Buzzard, and give it chase, as if in sport, and so annoy this bird as to drive it to a distance. It feeds on the wing with great ease and dexterity. It rarely, if ever, alights on the earth; and, when wounded, its movements on the ground are very awkward. It is never known to attack birds or quadrupeds of any kind, though it will pursue and annoy foxes and Crows, and drive them to seek shelter from its attacks. The Mississippi Kite is said to be by no means a shy bird, and may be easily approached when alight, yet it usually perches so high that it is not always easy to shoot it.

In Southern Illinois, Mr. Ridgway found this Kite to be a very abundant summer bird on the prairies. There it is found from May till near the end of September, and always associated with the Swallowtail (*Naucherus forficatus*.) It breeds in the timber which borders the streams intersecting the

prairies; but it is not until the hottest weather of July and August that it becomes very abundant, at this time feeding chiefly upon the large insects which swarm among the rank prairie herbage. Its particular food is a very large species of *Cicada*, though grasshoppers, and occasionally small snakes (as the species of *Eutania*, *Leptophis æstivus*, etc.), also form part of its food. Its prey is captured by sweeping over the object and picking it up in passing over, both the bill and feet being used in grasping it; the food is eaten as the bird sails, in broad circles, overhead. Mr. Ridgway describes the flight of this Kite as powerful and graceful in the extreme, and accompanied by beautiful and unusual evolutions.

According to Mr. Audubon, the nest of this species is always placed in the upper branches of the tallest trees. It resembles a dilapidated Crow's nest, and is constructed of sticks slightly put together, Spanish moss, strips of pine bark, and dry leaves. The eggs are three in number, nearly globular, and are described by Mr. Audubon as of a light greenish tint, blotched thickly over with deep chocolate-brown and black; but the eggs thus described are those of some totally different species.

The same writer mentions that a pair of these Hawks, whose nest was visited by a negro sailor, manifested the greatest displeasure, and continued flying with remarkable velocity close to the man's head, screaming, and displaying the utmost rage.

The description given by Mr. Audubon of the egg of this species, and also that in my North American Oölogy, of the drawing of an egg said to be of this bird, taken in Louisiana by Dr. Trudeau, do not correspond with an egg in the cabinet of the Boston Society of Natural History, formerly in that of the late Dr. Henry Bryant. This egg measures 1.50 inches in length by 1.32 in breadth, is very nearly globular, but is also much more rounded at one end, and tapering at the other. It is entirely unspotted and of a uniform chalky whiteness, with an underlying tinge of a bluish green. It was found by Mr. C. S. McCarthy in the Indian Territory, on the north fork of the Canadian River, June 25, 1861. The nest was made of a few sticks, and was in the fork of a horizontal branch, fifteen feet from the ground. There were two eggs in the nest.

It was also found breeding by Mr. J. H. Clark at Trout Creek, Indian Territory, June 21, and by Dr. E. Palmer at the Kiowa Agency (S. I. 13,534).

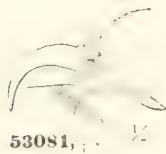
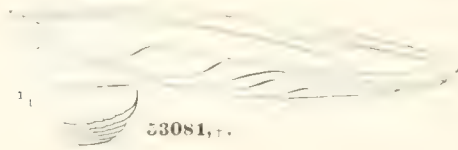
#### GENUS **ROSTRHAMUS**, LESSON.

*Rostrhamus*, LESS. 1831. (Type, *Fulco hamatus*, ILLIG.)

GEN. CHAR. Wings and tail large, the latter emarginated. Bill very narrow, the upper mandible much elongated and bent, the tip forming a strong pendent hook; lower mandible drooping terminally, the gonys straight; the upper edge arched, to correspond with the concavity of the regular commissure. Nostril elongate-oval, horizontal. Tarsus



short, about equal to middle toe, with a continuous frontal series of transverse sentelle; claws extremely long and sharp, but weakly curved; inner edge of the middle claw slightly pectinated. Tail to fourth, equals longest; outer five with inner webs sinuated.



*Rostrhamus sociabilis.*



The species of this genus are two in number, and are peculiar to the tropical portions of America, one of them being confined to the Amazon region, the other extending to Florida in one direction and Buenos Ayres on the other. Their nearest allies are the species *Circus* and *Elanus*, like them inhabiting marshy localities, where their food is found, which consists, in large part, of small mollusca.

### Species and Races.

**COMMON CHARACTERS.** *Adult.* Prevailing color plumbeous-black, or bluish-plumbeous; the tail and primaries black. Entirely concolored, or with white tail-coverts. Cere and feet orange-red. *Young.* Spotted with blackish-brown and ochraceous, the former prevailing above, the latter beneath.

1. ***R. sociabilis.*** Tail-coverts, with terminal and basal zones of the tail, white; that of the tail more or less shaded with grayish-brown. *Adult.* Uniform blackish-plumbeous, darker on the head, quills, and tail. *Hab.* South America, West Indies, and Florida.

Plumbeous of a glaucous cast, the head dark plumbeous, and the wing-coverts lighter, inclining to grayish-brown. Wing, 13.25 - 15.50; tail, 6.75 - 8.25; bill, .85 - 1.04; tarsus, 1.70 - 2.40; middle toe, 1.40 - 1.55. (2 sp. P. A. N. S.) *Hab.* Florida and West Indies. var. *plumbeus*.

Plumbeous of a blackish cast, the head deep black, and the wing-coverts not lighter, and not inclining to brownish. Wing, 12.90 - 14.00; tail, 7.60 - 7.80; bill, .90 - 1.25; tarsus, 1.50 - 1.80; middle toe, 1.45 - 1.65. *Hab.* South America. var. *sociabilis*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, var. *sociabilis* (VIEILL.). *Herpetothores sociabilis*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. XVIII, 318, 1818; Enc. Méth. III, 1248. *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, D'ORB. Voy. Am. Merid. II, 73, 1835; Synop. Av. Mag. Zool. 1850. GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. p. 47; Gen. and Subgen. Brit. Mus. p. 6. KAUP, Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, 78. STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 136, 1855. *Falco rostrhamus*, MAX. Beiträg. III, 182, 1830. *Cymindis leucopygus*, SPIX, Av. Bras. I, 7, pl. ii, 1824. *Rostrhamus niger*, LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 56, 1831.

**HAB.** South and Middle America, from Buenos Ayres to Eastern Mexico (Mirador).

**Localities:** Guatemala (SEL. Hb's, I, 220); Ecuador (SCHLATER, 1860, 259); Panama (LAW.

2. *R. hamatus*.<sup>1</sup> Tail-coverts, with end and base of the tail, slaty-black. *Adult*. Uniform bluish-plumbeous, darker on the head, wings, and tail. Tail uniform black, or with two narrow, interrupted, white bands across the middle portion (♂, Brazil, B. S. Coll.). Wing, 11.00–12.00; tail, 5.00–7.00; bill, 1.02–1.07; tarsus, 1.75–1.90; middle toe, 1.45. *Hab.* Amazon region of South America.

## ***Rostrhamus sociabilis*, var. *plumbeus*, RIDGWAY.**

### **HOOK-BILL KITE; EVERGLADE KITE.**

*Rostrhamus sociabilis*, VIEILL. D'ORB. Hist. Nat. Cuba, av. p. 15. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 38. — MAYNARD, Birds Florida, Prospectus, 1872.

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (No. 61,187, Everglades, Florida; C. J. Maynard). Prevailing color plumbeous, becoming black on the secondaries, primaries, and tail, somewhat brownish-ashy on the wing-coverts, and with a glaucous cast on the neck, the head becoming nearly black anteriorly. Tail-coverts (the longer of the upper and all of the lower) and base of the tail pure white, this occupying more than the basal half of the outer feather, and changing into grayish-brown next the black; tail with a terminal band of grayish-brown, about .75 wide. Inner webs of primaries marbled, anterior to their emargination, with grayish and white. Tibiæ tinged with rusty fulvous. Wing-formula, 4, 3, 5–2–6–7, 1. Wing, 14.01; tail, 7.25; culmen, .95; tarsus, 1.90; middle toe, 1.55;

RENCE, VII, 1861, 316; La Plata (BURMEISTER, II, 1861, 435); Brazil (PELZ. Orn. Bras. I, 6); Buenos Ayres (SCL. & SALV. 1869, 160).

The numerous South American specimens which have come under my notice all differ in the respects pointed out in the synopsis from West Indian and Floridan examples. The following descriptions of a pair of the southern race will show the average characters of var. *sociabilis*.

*Adult male* (Baranquilla, Ecuador, CROWTHER; Coll. G. N. Lawrence). Differing from the Florida male in being much darker; general color plumbeous-black, instead of glaucous-plumbeous; head, wings, and tail deep black. Wing-formula, 3 = 4, 5–2, 6–7, 1. Wing, 12.90; tail, 7.80; culmen, 1.05; tarsus, 1.65; middle toe, 1.45; hind toe, .80; its claw, 1.10.

*Adult female*, with traces of immature plumage (53,081, Conchitas, Buenos Ayres, September, 1867; William H. Hudson). Whole plumage (except tail-coverts) brownish-black, deepest black on head and tail; more brownish on wing-coverts and slightly glaucous on the neck. All the feathers, except those of the head, neck, and back, bordered inconspicuously with paler; these edgings more distinct and rufescent on the lesser wing-coverts; tibiæ tinged with rusty. Wing-formula, 3 = 4, 5–2–6–7, 1. Wing, 14.00; tail, 7.60; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 1.70; middle toe, 1.60; hind toe, .95; its claw, 1.20.

A specimen from Mexico, supposed to be from Mirador (No. 44,444), is dark in color, like South American examples; the bill is unusually large, the chord of the culmen measuring 1.25; wing, 14.25; tail, 8.30; tarsus, 1.70; middle toe, 1.65.

*Specimens examined*. — National Museum, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 7; New York Museum, 2; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 2; Museum, Cambridge, 1; Boston Society, 3. Total, 17.

<sup>1</sup> *Rostrhamus hamatus* (VIEILL.). *Falco hamatus*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 61, 231, 1899. — ILLIG. Mus. Berol. *Buteo hamatus*, VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1223. *Rostrhamus tæniurus*, CAB. J. für. Orn. 1854, p. lxxx. No. 16,634 (Amazon River; Lieutenant Herndon). Entirely uniform plumbeous, with a glaucous cast, becoming darker on the head, and black on primaries and tail; tail perfectly even, with an obscurely indicated, narrow, interrupted band of dark plumbeous across its middle portion. A specimen in the collection of the Boston Society has the bands on the tail more conspicuous, and agrees with the *R. tæniurus* of Cabanis. I have seen no young specimens of this species, but, judging from Temminck's figure, cited above, they are very similar to the same stage of *R. sociabilis*.

hind claw, 1.10, the toe, .90. Bill deep black; cere and naked lore bright orange-red; feet deep orange-red.

*Young female* (Cuba; Dr. Gundlach, Coll. G. N. Lawrence). Prevailing color above brownish-black, with a glaucous cast on the dorsal region; tail deep black, with a faint greenish-bronze reflection, with white and grayish base and tip, as in the adult. Each feather of the upper parts rather broadly tipped with ochraceous-rufous; crown, occiput, and auriculars streaked longitudinally with the same. Prevailing color of the head and lower parts deep ochraceous, on the head forming a broad superciliary stripe from the forehead back to the occiput; throat and cheeks streaked longitudinally with dusky; crissum immaculate; other lower parts, including lining of the wing, thickly covered with large transverse spots of brownish-black. Upper tail-coverts white, with a blackish shaft-line; tail with the basal third white anteriorly and brownish-ashy next the black, and with a terminal band, about 1.00 wide, of brownish-ashy, passing into white at the tip. Under surface of primaries cream-color anterior to the emargination, towards the ends grayish, with transverse spots of dusky. Wing-formula, 4, 3 = 5 - 2 - 6 - 7, 1. Wing, 13.90; tail, 8.25; tarsus, 1.90; middle toe, 1.55.

An older specimen in young plumage (11,755, Florida) differs as follows: The colors generally are lighter, the ochraceous being more prevalent and lighter in tint; the throat is immaculate, and the markings beneath more longitudinal. The secondaries and primaries are broadly tipped with ochraceous. Wing, 14.00; tail, 7.20; tarsus, 1.95; middle toe, 1.50.

HAB. West Indies and Southern Florida.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 3; Coll. C. J. Maynard, 7; Philadelphia Academy, 2; Museum Comp. Zool., 3; Coll. R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 16.

**HABITS.** The Black Kite is a Central and South American species, well known in that section, but having no other claim to be regarded as a bird of North America than its presence in a restricted portion of Florida, where it is, in the extreme southern section, not very uncommon, and where it is also known to breed. It was first taken in that peninsula by Mr. Edward Harris, and subsequently by Dr. Heermann. It was supposed by Mr. Harris to breed in Florida, from his meeting with young birds; and this supposition has been confirmed by Mr. Maynard, who has since found them nesting, and procured their eggs.

Mr. Salvin met with what he presumed to be this species in Central America, ascribing the immense flights of Hawks seen by him in the month of March, in the Pacific Coast region, migrating in a northwesterly direction, to this Kite. The bird was well known to the Spaniards under the name of *Asacuari*,—a term that has become proverbial for a person who is constantly wandering from place to place. Mr. Leyland obtained a single specimen of the *Rostrhamus* near the Lake of Peten. In the spring of 1870, Mr. Maynard met with several individuals of this species among the Florida everglades. He first observed one on February 18, but was not able to secure it. Visiting the same spot ten days later, with Mr. Henshaw, three birds of this species were shot, and the nest of one was discovered. It was at that time only partly completed, was small, flat, and composed of

sticks somewhat carelessly arranged. It was built upon the top of some tall saw-grass, by which it was supported. This grass was so luxuriant and thick that it bore Mr. Maynard up as he sought to reach the nest, which did not contain any eggs. On the 24th of March, Mr. Maynard discovered another nest of this species. It was built in a bush of the *Magnolia glauca*, and was about four feet from the water. It contained one egg. It was about one foot in diameter, was quite flat, and was composed of sticks carelessly arranged, and lined with a few dry heads of the saw-grass. The female was shot, and found to contain an egg nearly ready for exclusion, but as yet unspotted. Other eggs were subsequently procured through the aid of Seminole Indians, by whom this Hawk is called *So-for-funi-kar*.

The usual number of eggs laid by this Kite is supposed to be two, as in three instances no more were found, and this was said to be their complement by the Indians. It also appeared to be somewhat irregular in the time of depositing its eggs.

This Hawk is described as very sociable in its habits, unlike, in this respect, most other birds of prey. Six or eight specimens were frequently seen flying together, at one time, over the marshes, or sitting in company on the same bush. In their flight they resemble the common Marsh Hawk, are very unsuspicious, and may be quite readily approached. The dissection of the specimens showed that this bird feeds largely on a species of freshwater shell (*Pomus depressa* of Say).

The egg of this species taken in Florida by Mr. Maynard is of a rounded oval shape, equally obtuse at either end, and measures 1.70 inches in length by 1.45 in breadth. The ground-color is a dingy white, irregularly, and in some parts profusely, blotched with groups of markings of a yellowish brown, shading from a light olive-brown to a much duller color, almost to a black hue. These markings in the specimen seen are not grouped around either end, but form a confluent belt around the central portions of the egg. The following description is given by Mr. Maynard of the other specimens taken by him.

*Egg No. 1.* Ground-color bluish-white, spotted and blotched everywhere



*Rostrhamus sociabilis* (young).



with brown and umber. Dimensions,  $1.72 \times 1.45$ . No. 2. Ground-color same as No. 1. Two large irregular blotches of dark brown and umber on the larger end, with smaller confluent blotches and streaks of the same, covering nearly the entire surface of that end; smaller end much more sparsely spotted with the same. Dimensions,  $1.76 \times 1.40$ . No. 3. Ground-color dirty brown. The entire egg, except the small end, covered with a washing of dark brown, which forms dark irregular blotches at various points, as if the egg had been painted and then taken in the fingers before drying. Dimensions,  $1.55 \times 1.55$ .

### GENUS **CIRCUS**, LACÉPÈDE.

*Circus*, LACÉP. 1800, 1801. (Type, *Falco aragenosus*, LINN.)

*Pygargus*, KOCH, 1816. (Same type.)

*Strigopsis*, BONAP. 1831. (Type, *Falco cyaneus*, LINN.)

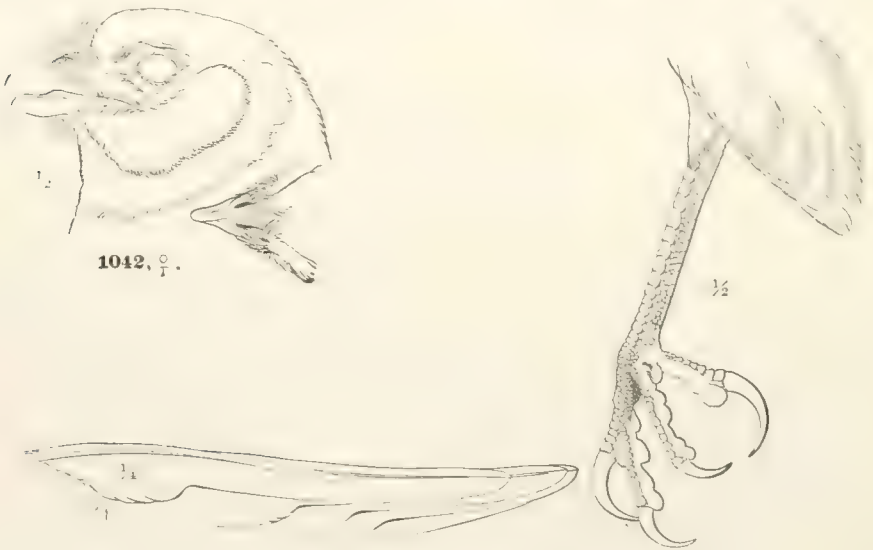
*Glaucophanes*, KAUP, 1844. (Type, *Falco ciacracus*, MONT.)

*Spilocircus*, KAUP, 1847. (Type, *Circus jardi*, GOULD.)

*Pterocircus*, KAUP, 1851. (Same type.)

*Spizacircus* and *Spizacircus*, KAUP, 1844 and 1851. (Type, *Circus macropus*, VIEILL.)

GEN. CHAR. Form very slender, the wings and tail very long, the head small, bill weak, and feet slender. Face surrounded by a ruff of stiff, compact feathers, as in the Owls



*Circus hudsonius*.

(nearly obsolete in some species). Bill weak, much compressed; the upper outline of the cere greatly ascending basally, and arched posteriorly, the commissure with a faint lobe; nostril oval, horizontal. Loral bristles fine and elongated, curving upwards, their ends reaching above the top of the cere. Superciliary shield small, but prominent. Tarsus more than twice the middle toe, slender, and with perfect frontal and posterior continuous series of regular transverse scutellæ; toes slender, the outer longer than the inner; claws

strongly curved, very acute. Wings very long, the third or fourth quills longest; first shorter than the sixth; outer three to five with inner webs sinuated. Tail very long, about two thirds the wing; rounded.

The relationships of this well-marked genus are, to *Accipiter* on the one hand, and *Elanus* on the other; nearest the former, though it is not very intimately allied to either. I cannot admit the subgenera proposed by various authors (see synonymy above), as I consider the characters upon which they are based to be merely of specific importance, scarcely two species being exactly alike in the minute details of their form.

The species are quite numerous, numbering about twenty, of which only about four (including the climatic sub-species, or geographical races) are American. North America possesses but one (*C. hudsonius*, Linn.), and this, with the *C. cinereus*, Vieill., of South America, I consider to be a geographical race of *C. cyaneus* of Europe.

The birds of this genus frequent open, generally marshy, localities, where they course over the meadows, moors, or marshes, with a steady, gliding flight, seldom flapping, in pursuit of their food, which consists mainly of mice, small birds, and reptiles. Their assault upon the latter is sudden and determined, like the "Swift Hawks," or the species of *Accipiter*.

In the following synopsis, I include only the three forms of *C. cyaneus*, giving the characters of the European race along with those of the two American ones.

#### Species and Races.

**C. cyaneus.** Wing, 12.50–16.00; tail, 9.00–10.70; culmen, .60–.80; tarsus, 2.42–3.25; middle toe, 1.10–1.55. Third to fourth quills longest; first shorter than sixth or seventh; outer four with inner webs sinuated. *Adult male.*<sup>1</sup> Above pearly-ash, with a bluish cast in some parts; breast similar; beneath white, with or without rufous markings. *Adult female.* Above brown, variegated with ochraceous on the scapulars and wing-coverts; beneath yellowish-white or pale ochraceous, with a few longitudinal stripes of brown. *Young* (of both sexes). Like the adult female, but darker brown above, the spotting deeper ochraceous, or rufous; beneath pale rufous, the stripes less distinct.

Tail and secondaries without a subterminal band of dusky; lower parts without any markings.

Wing, 12.50–15.00; tail, 9.00–10.70; culmen, .60–.75; tarsus, 2.70–2.85; middle toe, 1.10–1.35. *Hab.* Europe. var. *cyaneus*.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The females and immature males are hard to distinguish, and from the unsatisfactory character of the material at my command I have not succeeded in finding reliable characters by which these plumages of the three races may be distinguished. Consequently I give only the characters of the adult males, in defining the distinctions between them.

<sup>2</sup> *Circus cyaneus*, var. *cyaneus* (Linn.). *Falco cyaneus*, LINN. S. N. 1766, 126. *Circus cyaneus*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 105. — GOULD, B. Europe, pl. xxxiii. — BONAP. List, 22. — DEGL. Orn. Eur. I, 74. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 147. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 37, No. 364. *Falco pygargus*, LINN. S. N. 1766, 126. *Circus pygargus*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, pl. ii, 41.

*Specimens examined.* — National Museum, 3; Philadelphia Academy, 4; New York Museum, 1; Boston Society, 5. Total, 13.

Tail and secondaries with a subterminal band of dusky; lower parts with rufous markings.

Wing, 12.90–16.00; tail, 9.00–10.50; culmen, .65–.75; tarsus, 2.90–3.25; middle toe, 1.20–1.55. Lower parts with scattered irregular specks, or small cordate spots, of reddish-rufous. *Hab.*

North and Middle America . . . . . var. *hudsonius*.

Wing, 12.40–14.50; tail, 8.50–10.50; culmen, .62–.81; tarsus, 2.42–3.00; middle toe, 1.20–1.50. Lower parts with numerous regular transverse bars of reddish-rufous. *Hab.* South America.

var. *cinereus*<sup>1</sup>

## **Circus cyaneus, var. hudsonius (LINN.).**

### **MARSH HAWK; AMERICAN HARRIER.**

*Falco hudsonius*, LINN. Syst. Nat. p. 128, 1766. — GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 277, 1789. — LATH. Syn. I, 91, sp. 76, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, p. 97, sp. C. 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 173, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 165, 1809. *Circus hudsonius*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. ix, 1807. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. p. 108, 1854; Birds N. Am. 1858, p. 38. — HERRM. P. R. R. Rep't, II, 33, 1855. — KENNERLY, P. R. R. Rep't, III, 19, 1856. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rep't, VI, 74, 1857. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rep't, XII, ii, 150, 1860. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 150, 1855. — COUES, Prod. B. Ariz. 13, 1866. — BLAKIST. Ibis, 1861, 319. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, 1864, 110 (Brit. Coll.). *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*, SCHLEG. Mus. Pays-Bas, *Circi*, 2, 1862. *Circus cyaneus*, var. *hudsonius*, (RIDGWAY) COUES, Key, 1872, 210. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 37, 1869. *Strigiceps hudsonius*, BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 35, 1850. *Falco spadiceus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 273, 1789. — FORST. Phil. Trans. LXII, 383, 1772. *Falco buffoni*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 277, 1789. — LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 98, D, 1821. *Falco uliginosus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 278, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 40, 179; Syn. I, 90, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, 271, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 173, 1800. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. li, f. 2, 1808. — SAB. App. Frankl. Exp. p. 671. *Circus uliginosus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, 37, 1807. — DEKAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 20, pl. iii, figs. 5, 6, 1844. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 88, 1831. — MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 20. *Strigiceps uliginosus*, BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 5, 1838. — KAUP, Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 58. *Falco cyaneus* &  $\beta$ . LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 40, 1790; Syn. I, 91, 7 sp. 6 A. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 164, 1809. *Falco cyaneus*, AUD. B. Am. pl. cccxvi, 1831. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. IV, 21, 1831. — BONAP. Am. Orn. pl. 12; Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 33; Isis, 1832, p. 1538. — PEAB. B. Mass. p. 82, 1841. *Circus cyaneus*, BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. p. 33. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 391. — RICH.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 12.50–13.25; tail, 9.00–9.30; culmen, .60–.70; tarsus, 2.75–2.90; middle toe, 1.10–1.25. Specimens, 8. ♀. Wing, 13.50–15.00; tail, 9.50–10.70; culmen, .75; tarsus, 2.70–2.85; middle toe, 1.25–1.35. Specimens, 4.

*Observations.* — The adult female of *cyaneus* is distinguishable from that of *hudsonius* by lighter colors and less distinct ochraceous blotches on the shoulders.

<sup>1</sup> *Circus cyaneus*, var. *cinereus* (VIEILL.). *Circus cinereus*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. H. N. IV, 1816, 454. — DARWIN, Zool. Beag. pt. iii, 30. — D'ORB. Synop. Av. Mag. Zool. 1837. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 156. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 37, No. 368. *Circus campestris*, VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1823, 1213. *Circus frenatus*, LICHT. Verz. Doubl. 1823, p. 62. *Circus histrionicus*, QUOY, Zool. Journ. III, 1826, 271.

*Specimens examined.* — National Museum, 7; Philadelphia Academy, 5; Boston Society, 3; Museum Cambridge, 1; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 1. Total, 17.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 12.40–13.25; tail, 8.50–9.00; culmen, .62–.63; tarsus, 2.42–2.60; middle toe, 1.20–1.25. Specimens, 11. ♀. Wing, 13.75–14.50; tail, 9.30–10.50; culmen, .75–.80; tarsus, 2.80–3.00; middle toe, 1.40–1.50. Specimens, 5.

& SWAINS. Faun. Bor. Am. pl. xxix, 1831. — AUD. Synop. p. 19, 1839. — BIEW. (WILSON), N. Am. Orn. Syn. 685, 1852. — PLATE, U. S. Expl. Exp. p. 63, 1848. — WOODH. in SILLI. Rpt. Exp. Zool. & Geol., p. 61, 1853. — NUTT. Man. Orn. U. S. & Can. p. 109, 1833. — GRAY, B. Long Isl., p. 21, 1844. — GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. p. 78, 1844.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (16,764, Washington, D. C., December). Head, neck, breast, and upper parts light cinereous, palest anteriorly where it is uninterruptedly continuous; occiput somewhat darker, with a transverse series of longitudinal dashes of white, somewhat tinged with reddish. Back, scapulars, and terminal third of secondaries, with a dusky wash, the latter fading at tips; five outer primaries nearly black, somewhat hoary on outer webs beyond their emargination; lesser wing-coverts faintly mottled with pale, or with obsolete dusky spots. Upper tail-coverts immaculate pure white. Tail bluish-cinereous, mottled with white toward base; crossed near the end with a distinct band of black, and with about five narrower, very obscurely indicated ones anterior to this; tip beyond the subterminal zone fading terminally into whitish. Whole under side of wing (except terminal third or more of primaries) pure white; immaculate, excepting a few scattered transverse dusky spots on larger coverts. Rest of under parts pure white everywhere, with rather sparse transverse cordate spots of rufous. Wing, 14.00; tail, 9.20; tarsus, 2.80; middle toe, 1.30. Third and fourth quills equal, and longest; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first 5.81 inches shorter than longest.

Another specimen differs as follows: The fine cinereous above is replaced by a darker and more brownish shade of the same, the head and breast much tinged with rusty. Tail much darker, the last black band twice as broad and near the tip; other bands more numerous (seven instead of five), and although still very obscure on middle feathers are better defined than in the one described; inner webs of tail-feathers (especially the outer ones) tinged with cream-color; white of lower parts tinged with rufous; the deep rufous transverse bars on the breast and sides broader, larger, and more numerous than in No. 16,764; abdomen and tibiae with numerous smaller cordate spots of rufous; lower tail-coverts with large cordate spots of the same, and a deep stain of paler rufous; lining of wings more variegated. Wing, 14.10; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.90; middle toe, 1.30.

*Adult female* (16,758, Hudson's Bay Territory; Captain Blakiston). Umber-brown above; feathers of the head and neck edged laterally with pale rufous; lores, and superciliary and suborbital stripes dull yellowish-white, leaving a dusky stripe between them, running back from the posterior angle of the eye. Lesser wing-coverts spattered with pale rufous, this irregularly bordering and indenting the feathers; feathers of the rump bordered with dull ferruginous. Tail deep umber, faintly fading at the tip, and crossed by six or seven very regular, sharply defined, but obscure, bands of blackish; the alternating light bars become paler and more rufous toward the edge of the tail, the lateral feathers being almost wholly pale cream-color or ochraceous, darker terminally; this tint is more or less prevalent on the inner webs of nearly all the feathers. Ear-coverts dull dark rufous, obsoletely streaked with dark brown; the feathers of the facial disk are fine pale cream-color, each with a middle stripe of dark brown; throat and chin immaculate dirty-white, like the supraorbital and suborbital stripes. Beneath dull white, with numerous broad longitudinal stripes of umber-brown; these broadest on the breast, growing gradually smaller posteriorly. Under surface of primaries dull white, crossed at wide intervals with dark-brown irregular bars, of which there are five (besides the terminal dark space) on the longest quill.

*Juv.* (♂, 15,585, Bridger's Pass, Rocky Mountains, August; W. S. Wood). Upper parts very dark rich clove-brown, approaching sepia-black; feathers of the head bordered with deep ferruginous, and lesser wing-coverts much spotted with the same, the edges of the feathers being broadly of this color; secondaries and inner primaries fading terminally



into whitish; upper tail-coverts tinged with delicate cream-color (immaculate). Tail with four very broad bands of black, the intervening spaces being dark umber on the two middle feathers, on the others fine cinnamon-ochre; the tip also (broadly) of this color. Ear-coverts uniform rich dark snuff-brown, feathers of a satiny texture; feathers of facial disk the same centrally, edged with fine deep rufous. Entire lower parts deep reddish-ochraceous or fulvous-rufous, growing gradually paler posteriorly; immaculate, with the exception of a few faint longitudinal stripes on the breast and sides. Under side of wing as in the last, but much tinged with rufous.

HAB. Entire continent of North America, south to Panama; Cuba, and Bahamas.

Localities: Oaxaca (SCL. 1859, 390); Orizaba (SCL. 1857, 211); Guatemala, winter (SCL. Ibis, I, 221); Cuba (CAB. Journ. II, lxxxiii; GUNDLACH, Repert. 1865, 222, winter); City of Mexico (SCL. 1864, 178); E. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 328, resident); W. Arizona (COVES); Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. 1867, 65); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 134).

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 53; Museum Comp. Zoöl., 24; Boston Society, 8; Philadelphia Academy, 10; Cab. of G. N. Lawrence, 5; R. Ridgway, 6. Total, 106.

#### Measurements.

Sex.	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus	Middle Toe	Specimens
♂	12.90 - 13.85	9.90 - 9.80	.60 - .65	2.85 - 2.90	1.20 -	34
♀	13.00 - 16.00	8.80 - 10.50	.70 - .75	2.85 - 3.25	1.22 - 1.55	32

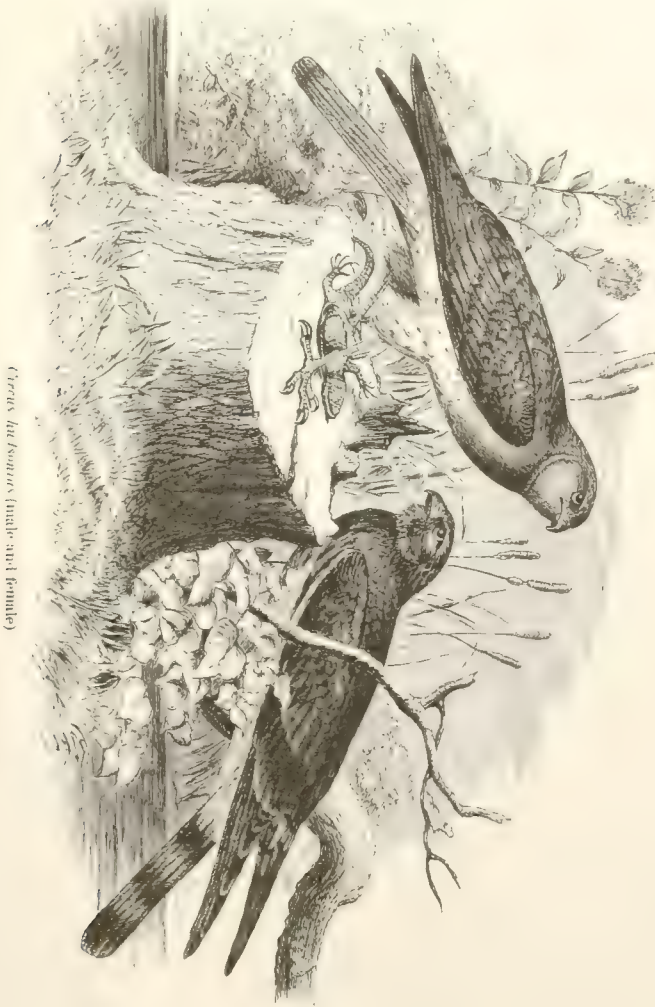
HABITS. The Marsh Hawk is one of the most widely distributed birds of North America, breeding from the fur regions around Hudson's Bay to Texas, and from Nova Scotia to Oregon and California. It is abundant everywhere, excepting in the southeastern portion of the United States. Sir John Richardson speaks of it as so common on the plains of the Saskatchewan that seldom less than five or six are in sight at a time (in latitude 55°). Mr. Townsend found it on the plains of the Columbia River and on the prairies bordering on the Missouri. The Vincennes Exploring Expedition obtained specimens in Oregon. Dr. Gambel and Dr. Heermann found it abundant in California. Dr. Suckley's party obtained specimens in Minnesota; Captain Beckwith's, in Utah; Captain Pope, Lieutenant Whipple, and Dr. Henry, in New Mexico; and Lieutenant Couch, in Tamaulipas, Mexico. Dr. Woodhouse met with it abundantly from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, throughout the summer, showing conclusively that it breeds in those different sections of country. De la Sagra, Lembeye, and Dr. Gundlach, all give it as a bird of Cuba, but not as breeding there.

Dall records it as very rare on the Yukon, and an occasional summer visitor only at St. Michael's, where an individual was killed as late as November. Donald Gunn states that it makes its appearance in the fur countries about the opening of the rivers, and departs about the beginning of November. It preys upon small birds and mice, is very slow on the wing, flies very low, and in a manner very different from all other kinds of Hawks.

In Nova Scotia it is very abundant, and is very destructive of young

game. Mr. Downes regards it as an indiscriminating feeder upon fish, snakes, and even worms. He took two green snakes from the stomach of one of them.

Mr. Dresser found them abundant throughout the whole country east of the Rio Nueces at all seasons of the year. They were more abundant in full blue plumage than elsewhere. Near San Antonio he met with them on the prairies, where they feed on the small green lizards which abound there, and



(Prairie falcon, male and female)

which they are very expert in catching. Dr. Coues mentions them as very abundant in Arizona. Dr. Kennerly met with them on both sides of the Rio Grande wherever there was a marsh of any extent. Flying near the surface, just above the weeds and canes, they round their untiring circles hour after hour, darting after small birds as they rise from cover. Pressed

by hunger, they will attack even wild Ducks. Dr. Kennerly also observed them equally abundant in the same localities in New Mexico. Dr. Newberry mentions finding this Hawk abundant beyond all parallel on the plains of Upper Pitt River. He saw several hundred in a single day's march.

In Washington Territory both Dr. Suckley and Dr. Cooper found this Hawk abundant throughout the open districts, and especially so in winter. Dr. Cooper found it no less common in California, and among several hundreds saw but two birds in the blue plumage. Near Fort Laramie he found it no less common, but there, at least one half were in the blue plumage. From this he infers that the older birds seek the far interior in preference to the seaboard.

Mr. Allen mentions it as common in winter about the savannas in Florida, and Mr. Salvin states that it is a migratory species in Guatemala. It occurred in the Pacific Coast Region, and examples were also received from Vera Paz.

In evidence of the nomadic character of the Marsh Hawk it may be mentioned that specimens asserted to be of this species are in the Leyden Museum that were received from the Philippines and from Kamtschatka.

In Wilson's time this Hawk was quite numerous in the marshes of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, where it swept over the low grounds, sailing near the earth, in search of a kind of mouse very common in such situations, and was there very generally known as the Mouse Hawk. It is also said to be very serviceable in the Southern rice-fields in interrupting the devastations made by the swarms of Bobolinks. As it sails low and swiftly over the fields, it keeps the flocks in perpetual fluctuation, and greatly interrupts their depredations. Wilson states that one Marsh Hawk was considered by the planters equal to several negroes for alarming the Rice-birds. Audubon, however, controverts this statement, and quotes Dr. Bachman to the effect that no Marsh Hawks are seen in the rice-fields until after the Bobolinks are gone. Dr. Coues, on the other hand, gives this Hawk as resident throughout the year in South Carolina.

According to Audubon, the Marsh Hawk rarely pursues birds on the wing, nor does it often carry its prey to any distance before it alights and devours it. While engaged in feeding, it may be readily approached, surprised, and shot. When wounded, it endeavors to make off by long leaps; and when overtaken, it throws itself on the back and fights furiously. In winter its notes while on the wing are sharp, and are said to resemble the syllables *pee-pee-pee*. The love-notes are similar to those of the *columbarius*.

Mr. Audubon has found this Hawk nesting not only in lowlands near the sea-shore, but also in the barrens of Kentucky and on the cleared tablelands of the Alleghanies, and once in the high covered pine-barrens of Florida.

After having paired, the Marsh Hawks invariably keep together, and labor conjointly in the construction of the nest, in sitting upon the eggs, and in

feeding the young. Their nests are variously constructed as to materials, usually chiefly of hay somewhat clumsily wrought together into the form of a nest, but never very nicely interwoven; occasionally, in more northern localities, they are lined with feathers, in some cases with pine-needles and small twigs.

Richardson states that all the nests of this Hawk observed by him were built on the ground by the side of small lakes, of moss, grass, feathers, and hair, and contained from three to five eggs, of a bluish-white color, and unspotted. The latter measured 1.75 inches in length, and were an inch across where widest. The position and manner of constructing the nest correspond with my own experience, but the size of the eggs does not. The nests have been invariably on the ground, near water, built of dry grass, and lined with softer materials.

Mr. Audubon gives a very minute account of a nest which he found on Galveston Island, Texas. It was about a hundred yards from a pond, on a ridge just raised above the marsh, and was made of dry grass; the internal diameter was eight, and the external twelve inches, with the depth of two and a half. No feathers were found. This absence of a warm lining in Texas really proves nothing. A warm lining may be required in latitude 65° north, and the same necessity not found in one of 29°. A nest observed in Concord, Mass., by Dr. H. R. Storer, was on the edge of a pond, and was warmly lined with feathers and fine grasses. Many other instances might be named.

The eggs found in the Galveston nest were four in number, smooth, considerably rounded or broadly elliptical, bluish-white, 1.75 inches in length, and 1.25 in breadth. Another nest, found under a low bush on the Alleghanies, was constructed in a similar manner, but was more bulky; the bed being four inches above the earth, and the egg slightly sprinkled with small marks of pale reddish-brown.

The prevalent impression that the eggs of this Hawk are generally unspotted, so far as I am aware, is not correct. All that I have ever seen, except the eggs above referred to from Texas, and a few others, have been more or less marked with light-brown blotches. These markings are not always very distinct, but, as far as my present experience goes, they are to be found, if carefully sought. In 1856 I received from Dr. Dixon, of Damariscotta, a nest with six eggs of a Hawk of this species. The female had been shot as she flew from the nest. With a single exception, all the eggs were very distinctly blotched and spotted. In shape they were of a rather oblong-oval, rounded at both ends, the smaller end well defined. They varied in length from 2.00 to 1.87 inches, and in breadth from 1.44 to 1.38 inches. Their ground-color was a dirty bluish-white, which in one was nearly unspotted, the markings so faint as to be hardly perceptible, and only upon a close inspection. In all the others, spots and blotches of a light shade of purplish-brown occurred, in a greater or less degree, over their entire surface. In two, the



blotches were large and well marked : in the others, less strongly traced, but quite distinct.

The nest was found in a tract of low land, covered with clumps of sedge, on one of which it had been constructed. It is described as about the size of a peck basket, circular, and composed entirely of small dry sticks, "finished off or topped out with small bunches of pine boughs." There was very little depth to the nest, or not enough to cover the eggs from view in taking a sight across it. "No feathers were found in or about it. It was simply made of small dry sticks, about six inches thick, with about one inch of pine boughs for finishing off the nest." The eggs were found about the 20th of May. They contained young at least two weeks advanced, showing that the bird began to lay in the latter part of April, and to sit upon her eggs early in the following month.

It will be thus seen that the eggs of this Hawk vary greatly in size and shape, and in the presence or absence of marking, varying in length from 1.75 to 2.00 inches, and in breadth from 1.25 to 1.50, and in shape from an almost globular egg to an elongated oval. Some are wholly spotless, and others are very strongly and generally blotched with well-defined purplish-brown.

This Hawk was found breeding in the Humboldt Valley by Mr. C. S. McCarthy, on the Yellowstone by Mr. Hayden, at Fort Benton by Lieutenant Mullan, at Fort Resolution by Mr. Kennicott, at Fort Rae and at Fort Simpson by Mr. Ross, at La Pierre House by Lockhart, and on the Lower Anderson by Mr. MacFarlane.

#### GENUS **NISUS**, CUVIER.

*Accipiter*, BRISS. 1760. (Type, *Falco nesus*, LINN.)

*Nisus*, CUV. 1799. (Same type.)

*Astur*, LACÉP. 1801. (Type, *Falco palumbarius*, LINN.)

*Dædalion*, SAVIG. 1809. (Same type.)

*Dædalium*, AGASS. (Same type.)

*Sparrius*, VIEILL. 1816. (Same type.)

*Jerax*, LEACH, 1816. (Same type.)

*Aster*, SWAINSON. 1837. (Same type.)

*Macronisus*, GRAY, 1840. (Type, *Falco gubar*, DAUD.)

*Phalotypus*, GLOG. 1842. (Same type.)

*Hierospiza*, 1844, *Jerospiza*, 1851, and *Teraspiza*, 1867, KAUP. (Type, *Falco tinus*, LATHAM.)

*Hieracospiza*, AGAS. (Same type.)

*Nisastur*, BLAS. 1844. (Same type.)

*Urospiza*, 1845, *Urospiza*, 1848, and *Uraspiza*, 1867, KAUP. (Type, *Sparrius cirrhocephalus*, VIEILL.)

*Leucospiza*, KAUP. 1851. (Type, *Falco naevius-hollandicus*, GMEL.)

*Cooperastur*, BONAP. 1854. (Type, *Accipiter cooperi*, BONAP.)

*Erythrospiza*, KAUP. 1867. (Type, *A. trinotatus* TEMM.? not of BONAP. 1830 !)

GEN. CHAR. Form slender, the tail long, the wings short and rounded, the feet slender, the head small, and bill rather weak. Bill nearly as high through the base as the length

of the chord of the culmen, its upper outline greatly ascending basally; commissure with a prominent festoon. Superciliary shield very prominent. Nostril broadly ovate, obliquely horizontal. Tarsus longer than the middle toe, the frontal and posterior series of regular transverse scutellæ very distinct, and continuous, sometimes fused into a continuous plate (as in the *Turdinæ*!). Outer toe longer than the inner; claws strongly curved, very acute. Wing short, much rounded, very concave beneath; third to fifth quills longest; first usually shortest, never longer than the sixth; outer three to five with inner webs cut (usually sinuated). Tail long, nearly equal to wing, usually rounded, sometimes even, more rarely graduated (*Astur macrourus*) or emarginated (some species of subgenus *Nisus*).

### Subgenera.

Less than one third of the upper portion of the tarsus feathered in front, the feathering widely separated behind; frontal transverse scutellæ of the tarsus and toes uninterrupted in the neighborhood of the digito-tarsal joint, but continuous from knees to claws. Tarsal scutellæ sometimes fused into a continuous plate . . . . .

*Nisus*.

More than one third (about one half) of the upper portion of the tarsus feathered in front, the feathering scarcely separated behind; frontal transverse scutellæ of the tarsus and toes interrupted in the region of the digito-tarsal joint, where replaced by irregular small scales. Tarsal scutellæ never fused . . . . .

*Astur*.

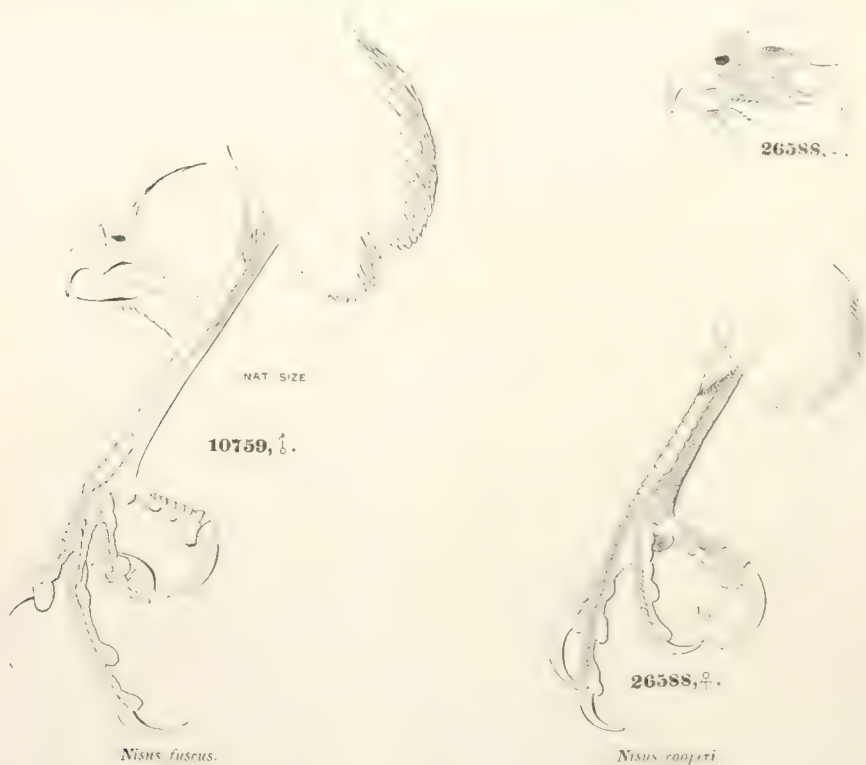
The species of this genus are exceedingly numerous, about fifty-seven being the number of nominal "species" recognized at the present date. Among so many species, there is, of course, a great range of variation in the details of form, so that many generic and subgeneric names have been proposed and adopted to cover the several groups of species which agree in certain peculiarities of external structure. That too many genera and subgenera have been recognized is my final conclusion, after critically examining and comparing forty of the fifty-seven species of Gray's catalogue (Hand List of Birds, I, 1869, pp. 29–35). The variation of almost every character ranges between great extremes; but when all the species are compared, it is found that, taking each character separately, they do not all correspond, and cross and re-cross each other in the series in such a manner that it is almost impossible to arrange the species into well-defined groups. From this genus I exclude *Lophospiza*, Kaup (type, *L. trivirgatus*); *Asturina*, Vieill. (type, *A. nitida*); *Rupornis*, Kaup (type, *R. magnirostris*); *Buteola*, Dubus (= *Buteo*, type, *B. brachyura*, Vieill.); included by Gray under *Astur*, as subgenera, and *Tachyspiza*, Kaup (type, *T. soloensis*); and *Scelopspiza*, Kaup (type, *S. francesii*); which are given by Gray as subgenera of *Micronisus*, Gray (type, *Accipiter gabar*), the species of the typical subgenus of which, as arranged in Gray's Hand List, I refer to *Nisus*. All these excluded names I consider as representing distinct genera.

The species of this genus are noted for their very predatory disposition, exceeding the Falcons in their daring, and in the quickness of their assault upon their prey, which consists chiefly of small birds.

SUBGENUS **NISUS**, CLAYTON.

- A. phil.* BESSON, 1760.<sup>1</sup>  
*Nisus*, CLAYTON, 1799. (Type, *Falco* LINN.). *A. t. of Nisus* (RAY), KAUF.  
*Nisus*, LEACH, 1816. (Same type.)  
*Circus*, BONAP, 1854. (Type, *A. phil.* BONAP.)  
*Hierospiza*, 1844, *Traspiza*, 1844, and *Troscopiza*, 1867, KAUF. (Type, *Falco* LINN., LATH.)  
*Hierospiza*, AGASS. (Same type.)  
*Troscopiza*, 1845, *Traspiza*, 1848, and *Troscopiza*, 1867, KAUF. (Type, *Sparcus* *carolinensis* LINN., VIEILL.)  
*Euroscopiza*, KAUF, 1867. (Type, *A. tridactylus* (TENN.).)  
*Micropiza*, GRAY, 1840. (Type, *Falco* *gularis*, DAUD.)  
*Nisus*, BLAS, 1844. (Same type.)

The species of this subgenus are generally of small size and slender form; but with a graceful and apparently delicate structure they combine remarkable strength and unsurpassed daring. They differ from the species



of *Astur* mainly in less robust organization. The species are very numerous, and most plentiful within the tropical regions. The Old World possesses about thirty, and America about fifteen, nominal species. Several South

<sup>1</sup> Not admissible as having been bestowed by a non-binomial author, and of prior date to the commencement of binomial nomenclature.

American species are intimately related to the two North American ones, and may prove to be only climatic races of the same species; thus, *erythronemis*, Gray (Hand List, p. 32, No. 305) may be the intertropical form of *fuscus*, and *chilensis*, Ph. and Landb. (Hand List, No. 314), that of *cooperi*. But the material at my command is too meagre to decide this.



*Nisus cooperi*.



*Nisus cooperi*.



*Nisus fuscus*.

In consequence of the insufficient material for working up the South American species, I shall omit them all from the following synopsis of the North American species and races.<sup>1</sup>

### Species and Races.

**COMMON CHARACTERS.** *Adult.* Above bluish slate-color; the tail with obscure bands of darker, and narrowly tipped with white. Beneath transversely barred with white and pinkish-rufous; the anal region and crissum immaculate white.

<sup>1</sup> In the collection of the National Museum are two specimens of *cooperi*, var. *gundlachi*, in the young plumage. They differ from the young of var. *cooperi* merely in darker colors, the brown markings being larger and more numerous, as well as deeper in tint. That their character may be better understood, I furnish the following more detailed descriptions:—

*Young male* (41,129, Cuba, Dr. Gundlach). Above dark, blackish vandyke-brown, the feathers bordered inconspicuously with dark rusty; tail dull slate, narrowly tipped with ashy-white, and crossed with four broad bands of dusky, almost equal to the slate; beneath white, much tinged on breast and tibiae with reddish-ochraceous; thickly striped with umber-brown, except on crissum; the streaks on throat narrow and cuneate, those on breast broad, and on sides changing into broad transverse spots or bars; tibiae thickly spotted transversely with more reddish, nearly rufous, brown; larger lower tail-coverts with narrow shaft-streaks of black. Occiput showing much concealed white; the ends of the feathers deep black. Wing, 8.60; tail, 7.50; culmen, .68; tarsus, 2.50; middle toe, 1.70.

*Young female* (41,128, Cuba, Dr. Gundlach). Similar, but more thickly striped beneath, the dark markings about equalling the white in extent; whole sides with large transverse spots of umber, cuneate along shaft. Wing, 10.50; tail, 9.50.

The synonymy of this race is as follows: *Accipiter gundlachi*, LAWRENCE, Ann. N. Y. Lyc. VII, May, 1860, 252. — GUND. Rep't, 1865, 224. — SCI. & SALV. EX. ORN. I, 170. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 33, No. 319. The *N. fuscus*, var. *fringilloides* (VIGORS), of Cuba, I have not seen. Its synonymy stands as follows: *Accipiter fringilloides*, VIG. Zool. Journ. III, 1826, 534. — LAW. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. VII, 1860, 255 (with descriptions and synonymy). — GUND. Rep't, 1865, 224. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 32, No. 311.



*Young.* Above grayish umber-brown, the feathers bordered more or less distinctly with rusty; scapulars with large white spots, mostly concealed; tail-bands more distinct than in the adult. Beneath white, longitudinally striped with dusky-brown.

1. *N. fuscus.* Middle toe shorter than the bare portion of the tarsus, in front; tarsal scutellæ fused into a continuous plate in the adult male. Tail nearly even. Top of head concolor with the back; tail merely fading into whitish at the tip. Concealed white spots of the scapulars very large and conspicuous. Wing, 6.45–8.80; tail, 5.70–8.20; culmen, .40–.60; tarsus, 1.85–2.25; middle toe, 1.10–1.55. *Hab.* Whole of North America and Mexico.

2. *N. cooperi.* Middle toe longer than the bare portion of the tarsus, in front; tarsal scutellæ never fused. Tail much rounded. Top of the head much darker than the back; tail distinctly tipped with white; concealed white spots of the scapulars very small, or obsolete. Wing, 8.50–11.00; tail, 7.50–10.50; culmen, .60–.80; tarsus, 2.10–2.75; middle toe, 1.30–1.85. *Hab.* Whole of North America and Mexico.

*Adult.* Rufous markings beneath, in form of detached bars, not exceeding the white ones in width; dark slate of the pileum and nape abruptly contrasted with the bluish-plumbeous of the back; upper tail-coverts narrowly tipped with white; scapulars with concealed spots of white. *Young.* White beneath pure; tibiæ with narrow longitudinal spots of brown. Wing, 9.00–11.00; tail, 8.00–9.80; culmen, .65–.80; tarsus, 2.45–2.75; middle toe, 1.55–1.85. *Hab.* Eastern region of North America; Eastern Mexico . . . . . var. *cooperi*.

*Adult.* Rufous markings beneath, in form of broader bars, connected along the shaft, almost uniform on the breast; black of the pileum and nape fading gradually into the dusky plumbeous of the back; upper tail-coverts not tipped with white, and scapulars without concealed spots of the same. *Young.* White beneath strongly tinged with ochraceous; tibiæ with broad transverse spots of brown. Wing, 8.50–10.60; tail, 7.50–10.50; culmen, .60–.75; tarsus, 2.10–2.75; middle toe, 1.30–1.75. *Hab.* Western region of North America; Western Mexico . . . . . var. *mexicanus*.

## Nisus fuscus (GMEL.) KAUP.

### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.

*Falco fuscus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 283, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 43, 1790; Syn. I, 98, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, 283, 1821. — MILL. Cim. Phys. pl. xviii, 1796. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 86, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 161, 1809. — AUD. B. Am. pl. cccclxxiii, 1821; Orn. Biog. IV, 522, 1831. — BREW. (WILS.) Am. Orn. 685, 1852. — PEAB. B. Mass. III, 78, 1841. — THOMP. Nat. Hist. Verm. p. 61, 1842. — NUTT. Man. 87, 1833. *Accipiter fuscus*, BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 5, 1838; Consp. Av. 32, 1850. — GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. 38, 1844; Gen. B. fol. sp. 4, 1844. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. 95, 1854; Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. 1855, 279; Birds N. Am. 1858, 18. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 108, 1855. — WOODH. Sitgr. Exp. Zuni & Colorad. p. 61, 1853. — COOPER & SUCKLEY, P. R. R. Rep't, VII, ii, 146, 1860. — HERM. Williamson's Rep. 33. — NEWB. Williamson's Rep. 74. — COUES, Pr. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. Jan. 1866, p. 7. — BLAKIST. Ibis, III, 1861, 317 (fresh eggs). — GRAY, Hand List, I, 32, 1869. *Astur fuscus*, DE KAY, N. Y.

Zool. II, 17, pl. ii, fig. 2, juv. ♂, 1844. — GIRAUD, B. Long Isl., p. 19, 1844. *Nisus* *fluvius*, KAUP, Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 64. *Falco dubius*, GÜLL. Syst. Nat. 1789, p. 281. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 13, 1799; Syn. Suppl. I, 37, 1802; Gen. Hist. I, 279, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. 1800, II, 122. *Falco velox*, WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xlv, f. 1, 1808. — BONAP. An. Lyc. N. Y. II, 29, 1833; Isis, 1832, p. 1137. *Accipiter velox*, BECH. Voy. Zool. p. 15. *Astur velox*, JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 68, 1831. *Falco pennsylvanicus*, WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xlv, fig. 1, 1808. — LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 280, 1820. TEMM. Pl. Col. 67. *Accipiter pennsylvanicus*, VIG. Zool. Journ. I, 338. — STEPH. Zool. XIII, ii, 32, 1815. — RICH. Faun. Bor.-Am. II, 44, 1831. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, pp. 210, 215, 1832. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, 215, 1837. *Astur pennsylvanicus*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 92. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 70, 1831. *Nisus pennsylvanicus*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 334, 1829. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 59, 1831. *Falco columbarius*, var., SHAW. Zool. VII, 189, 1809. *Accipiter ardosiacus*, VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1274, 1823. *Accipiter fringilloides* (not of VIGORS!), JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 215, 1832. ? *Nisus pacificus*, LESSON, Man. et d'Oiseaux, 1847, 177 (Acapulco to California. Square tail). *Accipiter fuscus*, BELWIER, Oology, 1857, 18, pl. iii, f. 23, 29; pl. v, f. 54.

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (11,990, District of Columbia; A. J. Falls). Above deep plumbeous, thus covering head above, nape, back, scapulars, wings, rump, and upper tail-coverts; uniform throughout, scarcely perceptibly darker anteriorly. Primaries and tail somewhat lighter and more brownish; the latter crossed by four sharply defined bands of brownish-black, the last of which is subterminal, and broader than the rest, the first concealed by the upper coverts; tip passing very narrowly (or scarcely perceptibly) into whitish terminally. Occipital feathers snowy-white beneath the surface; entirely concealed, however. Scapulars, also, with concealed very large roundish spots of pure white. Under side of primaries pale slate, becoming white toward bases, crossed by quadrate spots of blackish, of which there are seven (besides the terminal dark space) on the longest. Lores, cheeks, ear-coverts, chin, throat, and lower parts in general, pure white; chin, throat, and cheeks with fine, rather sparse, blackish shaft-streaks; ear-coverts with a pale rufous wash. Jugulum, breast, abdomen, sides, flanks, and tibiae with numerous transverse broad bars of delicate vinaceous-rufous, the bars medially somewhat transversely cordate, and rather narrower than the white bars; laterally, the pinkish-rufous prevails, the bars being connected broadly along the shafts; tibiae with rufous bars much exceeding the white ones in width; the whole maculate region with the shaft of each feather finely blackish. Anal region scarcely varied; lower tail-coverts immaculate, pure white. Lining of the wing white, with rather sparse cordate, or cuneate, small blackish spots; axillars barred about equally with pinkish-rufous and white. Wing, 6.60; tail, 5.70; tarsus, 1.78; middle toe, 1.20. Fifth quill longest; fourth but little shorter; third equal to sixth; second slightly shorter than seventh. Tail perfectly square.

*Adult female* (19,116, Powder River; Captain W. F. Raynolds, U. S. A.). Scarcely different from the male. Above rather paler slaty; the darker shaft-streaks rather more distinct than in the male, although they are not conspicuous. Beneath with the rufous bars rather broader, the dark shaft-streaks less distinct; tibiae about equally barred with pinkish-rufous and white. Wing, 7.70; tail, 6.90; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 1.40. Fourth and fifth quills equal and longest; third equal to sixth; second equal to seventh; first three inches shorter than longest.

*Young male* (41,890, Philadelphia; J. Krider.) Above umber-brown; feathers of the head above edged laterally with dull light ferruginous; those of the back, rump, the upper tail-coverts, scapulars, and wing-coverts bordered with the same; scapulars and rump showing large, partially exposed, roundish spots of pure white. Tail as in adult. Sides of the head and neck strongly streaked, a broad lighter supraoral stripe apparent.

Beneath white with dusky streaks on the neck, cheeks, throat, and jugulum with the narrow streaks of dusky-brown; breast, sides, and abdomen with broader longitudinal stripes of clear umber (less slaty than the back), each with a darker shaft-line; on the flanks the stripes are more oval; tibiae more dingy, markings fainter and somewhat transverse; anal region and lower tail-coverts immaculate white.

*Young female* (12,023, Fort Tejon, California; J. Xantus). Similar in general appearance to the young male. Markings beneath broader, and slightly sagittate in form, becoming more transverse on the flanks; paler and more reddish than in the young male; tibiae with brownish-rufous prevailing, this in form of broad transverse spots.

HAB. Entire continent of North America, south to Panama; Bahamas (but not West Indies, where replaced by *A. fringilloides*, Vig.).

Localities: Oaxaca (SCL. 1858, 295); Central America (SCL. Ibis, I, 218); Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. VII, 1859); City of Mexico (SCL. 1864, 178); Texas, San Antonio (DRESSER, Ibis, 1866, 324); Western Arizona (COUES); Mosquito Coast (SCL. & SALV. 1867, 280); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 134).

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 51; Philadelphia Academy, 14; New York Museum, 7; Boston Society, 5; Museum, Cambridge, 9; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 1; Coll. R. Ridgway, 4; Museum W. S. Brewer, 1. Total, 92.

#### Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	6.45 - 7.00	5.70 - 5.90	.40 - .	1.85 - 1.95	1.10 - 1.20	30
♀	7.50 - 8.80	6.90 - 8.20	.50 - .60	2.20 - 2.25	1.45 - 1.55	40

Specimens from different regions vary but little in size. The largest are 4,198, ♀, San Francisco, Cal., winter, 16,957, ♀, Hudson's Bay Territory, and 55,016, ♀, Mazatlan, Mexico, in which the wing ranges from 8.40 to 8.50, the tail 7.00. The smallest females are 45,826, Sitka, Alaska, and 11,791, Simiahmoo, W. T., in which the wing measures about 7.80. A female (32,499) from Orizaba, Mexico, one (8,513) from Fort Yuma, Cal., and one (17,210) from San Nicholas, Lower California, have the wing 8.00, which is about the average. The largest males are 54,336, Nulato, Alaska, 58,137, Kodiak, Alaska, 27,067, Yukon, mouth of Porcupine, and 55,017, Mazatlan, Mexico, in which the wing measures 7.00, the tail 5.60. The smallest males are 5,990, Orange, N. J., 8,514, Shoalwater Bay, W. T., 21,338, Siskiyou Co., Cal., 37,428, Orizaba, Mexico, and 5,584, Bridger's Pass, Utah; in this series the wing measures 6.50 - 6.70, the tail 5.40 - 5.60. A specimen from Costa Rica measures: wing 6.70, tail 5.35. Thus the variation in size will be seen to be an individual difference, rather than characteristic of any region. Some immature specimens from the north-west coast of North America (as 45,828, ♂, Sitka, Rus. Am., 5,845, ♂, Fort Steilacoom, W. T., 11,791, Simiahmoo, Puget Sound, and 8,514, Shoalwater Bay, W. T.) are much darker than others, the brown above inclining to to blackish-sepia; no other differences, however, are observable. An adult from the Yukon (54,337, ♀) has the rufous bars beneath remarkably faint, although well defined; another (19,384, ♀, Fort Resolution), in immature

plumage, has the longitudinal markings beneath so faint that they are scarcely discernible, and the plumage generally has a very worn and faded appearance. A male in fine plumage (10,759, Fort Bridger, Utah) has the delicate reddish-rufous beneath so extended as to prevail, and with scarcely any variegation on the sides and tibiæ; the bars on the tail, also, are quite obsolete.

**HABITS.** This species is one of the most common Hawks of North America, and its geographical range covers the entire continent, from Hudson's Bay to Mexico. Sir John Richardson mentions its having been met with as far to the north as latitude 51°. Drs. Gambel and Heermann, and others, speak of it as abundant throughout California. Audubon found it very plentiful as far north as the southern shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It has been obtained in New Mexico by Mr. McCall, in Mexico by Mr. Pease, in Washington Territory by Dr. Cooper and Dr. Suckley, in Alaska by Mr. Dall, at Fort Resolution by Mr. Kennicott, at Fort Simpson by Mr. B. R. Ross, etc. Messrs. Sclater and Salvin give it as a rare visitant of Guatemala. It has been ascertained to breed in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin, California, and Pennsylvania, and it probably does so not only in the intervening States and Territories, but also in all, not excepting the most southern, Florida, where its nest was found by Mr. Wurdemann.



*Nisus fuscus.*

Dr. Woodhouse, who frequently observed this bird skimming over the prairies while in search of its prey, states that its flight is so peculiar that there is no difficulty in recognizing it, when taken in connection with its form, short wings, and long tail, being very swift and irregular in its movements, first high in the air, then close to the ground, suddenly disappearing among the grass when it has seized the object of which it was in pursuit.

Mr. Dresser met with this Hawk in Texas, but nowhere south or west of San Antonio, where it remains through the breeding-season, nesting in the dense cedar-thickets.

Mr. Audubon regarded it as the very miniature of the Goshawk, in its irregular, swift, vigorous, varied, and yet often undecided, manner of flight, and on occasion greatly protracted. When in search of its prey, it is said to pass over the country, now at a moderate height, now close over the land, and with a surprising swiftness. It advances by sudden dashes,



and pounces upon the object of its pursuit so suddenly as to render hopeless any attempt to escape. It has frequently been known to seize and kill a bird so large that it was unable to carry it, and had to drop to the ground with it. In one instance Mr. Audubon saw it strike a Brown Thrush, which it had darted into a thicket of briars to seize, emerging at the opposite side. As Mr. Audubon ran up, the Hawk attempted twice to rise with its prey, but was unable to carry it off, and relinquished it. The Thrush was quite dead, and had evidently been killed instantly.

Mr. Downes, of Halifax, who speaks of this Hawk as common in Nova Scotia, breeding all over that province, adds that it does not molest the poultry-yards, being too weak to attack large prey. But this is not universally the case. They are frequently destructive both to dove-cots and to the younger inhabitants of the poultry-yard. Mr. Nuttall narrates that in the thinly settled parts of Alabama and Georgia it seemed to abound, and was very destructive to young chickens, a single one having been known to come regularly every day until it had carried off twenty or thirty. He was eye-witness to one of its acts of robbery, where, at noonday and in the near presence of the farmer, the Hawk descended and carried off one of the chickens. In another instance the same writer mentions that one of these Hawks, descending with blind eagerness upon its prey, broke through the glass of the greenhouse at the Cambridge Botanic Garden, fearlessly passed through a second glass partition, and was only brought up by a third, when it was caught, though very little injured.

At times this Hawk is seen to fly high, in a desultory manner, with quick but irregular movements of the wings, now moving in short and unequal circles, pausing to examine the objects below, and then again descending rapidly and following a course only a few feet from the ground, carefully examining each patch of small bushes in search of small birds.

Besides the smaller birds, young chickens, and pigeons, this Hawk has been known to occasionally feed on small reptiles and insects, as also upon the smaller quadrupeds.

Mr. Audubon speaks of having met with three nests of this species, and all in different situations. One was in a hole in a rock on the banks of the Ohio River; another was in the hollow of a broken branch, near Louisville, Ky., and the third in the forks of a low oak, near Henderson, Ky. In the first case, the nest was slight, and simply constructed of a few sticks and some grasses, carelessly interwoven, and about two feet from the entrance of the hole. In the second instance there was no nest whatever, but in the third the birds were engaged in the construction of an elaborate nest. The number of the eggs was four in one instance, and five in another. He describes them as almost equally rounded at both ends; their ground-color white, with a livid tinge, but scarcely discernible amid the numerous markings and blotches of reddish-chocolate with which they were irregularly covered. In a nest which was large and elaborately constructed of sticks, and contained

five eggs, found by Dr. H. R. Storer in Concord, Mass., there was a single egg which nearly corresponds with this description. It is, however, the only one among many specimens that at all agrees with it. This specimen is a little more than usually elongate, and its ground-color, which is a purplish-white, is nearly concealed by its blotches of various shades of sepia-brown. In every other instance the egg is very nearly spherical, the ground-color white, and beautifully marked with large confluent blotches of sepia, varying in depth from quite a light to a very dark shade. In one, these confluent markings form a broad belt around the centre of the egg. In others, they are chiefly distributed about the larger end. The contrast between the white ground and the dark confluent dashes of brown is very striking. Except in size, the eggs of this bird bear a marked resemblance to those of the Sparrow Hawk of Europe. In a few instances, the brown markings have an intermixture of red and purple. The egg measures 1.35 by 1.15 inches.

In nearly every instance the nest of this Hawk has been constructed in trees. It is usually large in proportion to the size of the bird, and its materials are somewhat elaborately put together; it is composed chiefly of large sticks and twigs, and the whole platform is covered with a thin lining of dry leaves, mosses, grass, etc. Mr. John Krider, of Philadelphia, found a nest in New Jersey, in the vicinity of that city, which was built on the edge of a high rock.

Mr. Robert Kennicott met with the nest of this species at Fort Resolution. It was composed entirely of small dry spruce twigs, with the exception of a half-dozen small flat bits of the scaly outer bark of the spruce, laid in the bottom, and forming a sort of lining. No feathers or other softer materials were used. The nest was shallow and broad. The base was about eighteen inches in diameter, and was about eight feet from the ground. It was in a small spruce in a thick wood and on high ground. When disturbed, the female flew off a short distance; but on Mr. Kennicott's hiding himself returned and flew near the nest, continually uttering a harsh rapid note. Near the nest were marks indicating the place where the male passed the nights perched on a dry stick near the ground.

Mr. B. R. Ross observed these birds nesting thickly along the cliffs of the Upper Slave River. They were more rare northward of Fort Simpson than *F. columbarius*.

Mr. William Street, of Easthampton, informs me that he has found this Hawk nesting on Mount Tom, where he has known of six of their nests in one season. In the spring of 1872 he found three nests, on the 24th and 25th of May. They contained two eggs each. One of these, on the 27th contained three eggs, of which he took one; on the 3d of June two more eggs had been laid. Two of these were taken, after which the birds deserted the nest and resorted to an old squirrel's nest, where they had four more eggs, depositing one every third day. They arrive at Mount Tom about the

1st of May. Their nests are made entirely of sticks, larger on the outside, and smaller within. They usually build in a hemlock-tree, selecting a thick clump. They are very noisy when they are at work building their nest, and often betray their presence by their cries. The younger the pair the more noisy they are. This Hawk appears to live nearly altogether on small birds. Mr. Street mentions having found ten or twelve skeletons in a single nest of this species.

### **Nisus cooperi** (BONAP.).

Var **cooperi**, BONAP.

#### **COOPER'S HAWK.**

*Falco cooperi*, BONAP. Am. Orn. pl. x, fig. 1, 1825; Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 433; Isis, 1832, 1137. JAMES (WILS.) Am. Orn. IV, 1841, 3. — PHIL. B. Mass. III, 78. *Accipiter cooperi*, GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. 38, 1844; Gen. B. fol. sp. 6. — CASS. Birds Cal. & Tex. p. 96, 1854; Birds N. Am. 1858, 16. — SCLAT. Pr. Z. S. 1859, 389 (difference from *A. pileatus*, MAX.). — HEERM. P. R. R. Rep't, VII, 31, 1857. — COOP. & SICKL. P. R. R. Rep't, XII, ii, 145, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 7, 1866. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 323 (Texas). — BLAKIST. Ibis, III, 1861, 317. — SCL. & SALV. Ex. Orn. I, 1869, 170. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 32, 1869. *Astur cooperi*, JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. III, 363, 1832. — BONAP. List, p. 5; Rev. Zool. 1850, 489; Consp. Av. 31. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 18, pl. iv, p. 5. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rep't, VI, iv, 74, 1857. — MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 13. *Fulco stanleyi*, AUD. B. Am. pls. xxxvi, cxli; Orn. Biog. I, 186. *Accipiter pileatus* (not of MAX.!), STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 109, 1855. *Accipiter cooperi*, BREWER, Oölogy, 1857, 20, pl. v, f. 55.

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (No. 10,086). Forehead, crown, and occiput blackish-plumbeous; the latter snowy-white beneath the surface; rest of upper parts slaty-plumbeous, the nape abruptly lighter than the occiput; feathers of the nape, back, scapulars, and rump with darker shaft-lines; scapulars with concealed cordate and circular spots of white; upper tail-coverts sharply tipped with white. Tail more brownish than the rump, sharply tipped with pure white, and crossed with three broad, sharply defined bands of black, the first of which is concealed, the last much broadest; that portion of the shaft between the two exposed black bands white. Lores grayish; cheeks and throat white, with fine, hair-like shaft-streaks of blackish; ear-coverts and sides of neck more ashy, and more faintly streaked. Ground-color beneath pure white; but with detached transverse bars of rich vinaceous-rufous, crossing the jugulum, breast, sides, flanks, abdomen, and tibiae; the white bars everywhere (except on sides of the breast) rather exceeding the rufous in width; all the feathers (except tibial plumes) with distinct black shaft-lines; lower tail-coverts immaculate, pure white. Lining of the wing white, with numerous cordate spots of rufous; coverts with transverse blackish bars; under side of primaries silvery-white, purest basally (tips dusky), crossed with quadrate bars of dusky, of which there are six (the first only indicated) upon the longest quill (fourth). Wing, 9.20; tail, 7.80; tarsus, 2.35; middle toe, 1.60. Fourth quill longest; third shorter than fifth; second intermediate between sixth and seventh; first, 2.80 shorter than longest; graduation of tail, 1.00.

*Adult female* (26,588, Washington, D. C.; Elliott Coues). Similar to the male. Forehead tinged with brownish; upper plumage much less bluish. Neck and ear-coverts uniformly rufous, with black shaft-streaks, there being no ashy wash as in the male. Tail decidedly less bluish than in the male, crossed with four bands, three of which are exposed. The rufous bars beneath less vinaceous than in the male, but of about the

same amount, rather predominating on the tibiæ. Wing, 10.70; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.45; middle toe, 1.80. Fourth and fifth quills longest and equal; third longer than sixth; second intermediate between sixth and seventh; first three inches shorter than longest.

*Young male* (55,498, Fort Macon, N. C., February; Dr. Coues). Above grayish-umber; feathers of forehead, crown, and nape faintly edged laterally with pale rusty; occiput unvaried blackish, feathers white beneath the surface. Wing-coverts, scapulars, and interscapulars narrowly bordered with pale yellowish-umber; rump and upper tail-coverts bordered with rusty. Tail paler umber than the back, narrowly tipped with white, and crossed by four bands of brownish-black, the first of which is only partially concealed. Scapulars and upper tail-coverts showing much concealed white, in form of roundish spots, on both webs. Beneath clear white, without any yellowish tinge; throat with a medial and lateral series of clear dark-brown streaks; jugulum, breast, sides, flanks, and abdomen with numerous stripes of clear sepia, each showing a darker shaft-streak; tibiæ with longitudinal streaks of paler and more rusty brown; lower tail-coverts immaculate.

*Young female* (6,876 "Sacramento Valley, Cal."; Dr. Heermann—probably from Pennsylvania). Similar to young male; more varied, however. The black middle streaks of feathers of head above narrower, causing more conspicuous streaks; white spots of scapular region considerably exposed; longitudinal stripe beneath narrower and more sparse.

HAB. North America in general, but rare in the western division; Eastern Mexico. Not found in West Indies, where replaced by *A. gundlachi*, LAWR.

Localities: Southeastern Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 323, breeds); Arizona (COUES, Prod. 1866, 43); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 134).

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 12; Philadelphia Academy, 16; New York Museum, 3; Boston Society, 2; Cambridge Museum, 1; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 7; Coll. R. Ridgway, 4; Museum, W. S. Brewer, 1. Total, 46.

## Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	9.00–9.30	8.00–8.50	.65–.	2.45–2.65	1.55–1.60	7
♀	10.20–11.00	9.00–9.80	.75–.80	2.60–2.75	1.65–1.85	12

Var **mexicanus**, SWAINSON.

## MEXICAN BLUE-BACKED HAWK.

*Accipiter mexicanus*, SWAINS. F. Bor.-Am. II, 1831, 45. — JARD. (ed. WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 1832, 215. — BONAP. Consp. 32 (under *A. fuscus*). — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. 96. — IB. P. A. N. S. 1855, 279; Birds N. Am. 1858, 17. — COOP. & SUELL. P. R. R. Rep't, VII, ii, 1860, 146. — COUES, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1866, 18. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 33.

*Adult male* (12,024, Fort Tejon, Cal.; J. Xantus). Forehead, crown, and occiput plumbeous-black, feathers of the latter with basal two-thirds snowy-white, partially exposed. Upper plumage deep plumbeous, darkest anteriorly, the back being scarcely lighter than the nape; rump fine bluish-plumbeous. No concealed white on the upper parts. Tail brownish-plumbeous, narrowly tipped with pure white, and with four sharply defined broad bands of black, — the first of which is faintest, and concealed by the coverts, the last broadest; shafts of tail-feathers deep brown throughout. Primaries and secon-



daries much darker than the tail, more bluish; less so, however, than the scapulars. Lores whitish, quite in contrast with the black of the forehead; cheeks and ear-coverts dark ashy, slightly washed with reddish, and with obscure darker streaks; chin and throat white, with sparse hair-like shaft-streaks of black. Breast, abdomen, sides, flanks, and tibiae fine vinaceous-rufous; feathers (except on tibiae) with fine hair-like shaft-streaks of black (much narrower than in *cooperi*); breast, abdomen, sides, and flanks with pairs of transverse ovoid white spots, not touching the shaft; on the abdomen the white and rufous bars are of about equal width; on the tibiae the rufous is deepest, and exceeds the white; anal region barred with rufous, more faintly than the abdomen; lower tail-coverts snowy-white. Sides of the neck deep reddish-ashy, this washing the whole side of the breast. Lining of the wing reddish-white, with numerous crowded, cordate, somewhat blended spots of rufous; larger coverts transversely spotted with blackish; under side of primaries silvery-white (blackish for about the terminal inch), crossed with quadrate spots of blackish, of which there are about seven on the longest quill (fourth); the basal ones are, however, so much broken, that the number varies in different individuals.

*Young male* (Fort Tejon, California). Forehead, crown, occiput, and nape deep rusty-rufous; feathers with broad longitudinal streaks of pure black. Rest of upper parts deep umber, darkest on the back; feathers of back and rump, the upper tail-coverts, scapulars, and wing-coverts, broadly bordered with rusty; scapulars with concealed white spots. Tail ashy-umber, tipped (more broadly than in adult) with ashy-white, crossed by four broad bands of brownish-black: the last (or subterminal) of which is broadest, the first concealed by the coverts. Secondaries and primaries similar in color to the tail, but darker; the first showing five obsolete darker bands, and tipped (rather broadly) with pale cinnamon-rufous. Ear-coverts and cheeks fulvous-white, thickly streaked with dark brown. Lower parts white, washed with ochraceous on jugulum and breast; each feather with a central longitudinal lanceolate stripe of clear umber, the shaft of each black; these streaks are very narrow on the throat, broadest on the breast and flanks. Tibiae with transversely ovate spots, and transverse bars of reddish-umber; lower tail-coverts with narrow shaft-streaks of darker brown. Lining of wing with cordate and ovate spots of dark brown.

*Young female* (42,136, Orizaba, Mexico; M. Botteri). Similar to the young male; feathers of back, etc., less broadly margined with rusty. Ochraceous wash on lower parts more decided; stripes beneath broader and less lanceolate; on the sides broadly ovate, and on the flanks in form of broad transverse bars; tibiae more thickly spotted transversely; lower tail-coverts immaculate. Wing, 9.00; tail, 7.80; tarsus, 2.25; middle toe, 2.50. Fourth quill longest; third shorter than fifth; second intermediate between sixth and seventh; first, 2.90 shorter than longest. Graduation of tail, .90.

HAB. Western region of North America; Mexico.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED

National Museum, 22; Boston Society, 2; Museum, Cambridge, 2; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 2; Coll. R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 32.

#### MEASUREMENTS

Sex.	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus	Mid. Toe	Sex.
♂	8.50-9.85	7.50-9.20	.60-.70	2.10-2.75	1.30-1.65	24
♀	10.20-10.60	9.30-10.50	.70-.75	2.65-2.75	1.65-1.75	4

HABITS. This common Hawk appears to have a very general distribution over the United States, from South Carolina to New Brunswick, on the Atlantic; from Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, in the interior, to the

Saskatchewan, and from Southern California to Washington Territory on the Pacific. Mr. Bendire sometimes it is found near Times Lake. Mr. Verrill cites it as occurring in Western Maine but not common. I have received its eggs from Santa Fe, where it is resident throughout the year. Mr. Dresser met with a few specimens near San Antonio, and found it breeding on the Altos and Mission hills. Dr. Cooper says it is generally distributed throughout the Territory of Arizona. Dr. Newberry found it common about San Francisco and extending north of the Colorado River



Mr. A. Short obtained a specimen on the Colorado River in Southern California, and Dr. Gambel and Dr. A. L. Heermann speak of it as common throughout that State, while Dr. Cooper and Dr. Suckley mention it as frequent both in Oregon and in Washington Territory. A single specimen was taken by Mr. Salvin in Guatemala. Dr. Cooper states that this Hawk is often killed about the ranch-lands of Washington Territory, where it starts on chickens before the very eyes of the owner, darting down like lightning, and disappearing again before he had seen what has caused the disturbance. It is said to be a constant resident, and to breed within the Territory.

Mr. Audubon describes the flight of this Hawk as rapid, powerful, and even, and as performed at a short distance from the ground or over the forest. It is said to move along in a silent gliding manner, and with a swiftness even superior to that of the Wild Pigeon, rarely deviating from a straight course except to seize its prey and seldom mounting to the air in circles. It is now held and during Mr. Audubon having known how to attack and kill a much much larger and heavier than itself. It frequently attacks and kills the common hooded turtle. It breeds in equal abundance in the Middle States, and particularly along the banks of the Potomac River. I have received reliable information of its nesting in Vermont, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina, and

probably nearly all of the States. Mr. Gosse did not meet with it in Jamaica.

Mr. Audubon states that he found its nest usually placed in the forks of the branch of an oak-tree, towards its extremity. In general appearance it resembles that of the common Crow, being composed externally of numerous crooked sticks, and having a slight lining of grasses and a few feathers. The eggs he describes as three or four in number, almost globular, large for the size of the bird, of a dull white color, granulated and rough to the touch.

Dr. Hoy, in a communication to the Boston Natural History Society, mentions finding four nests of this Hawk in a single season, and his careful observations of the habits of the parent birds enabled him to ascertain that in each instance the birds began to sit constantly upon their nest as soon as a single egg had been deposited, and that, as a consequence, the eggs having been deposited at varying intervals, each one was found in a different stage of incubation from the other. In not a single instance did he visit a nest without finding the parent bird occupying it.

These nests were all composed of sticks, rudely lined with strips of bark and a few bunches of *Usnea barbata*. The nests were quite shallow and small for a Hawk. Most of the eggs were sparingly sprinkled with umber-brown. One set of these eggs was blotched with bluish-green, which soon faded out. While the nests were being molested, the parent Hawk would fly from tree to tree, uttering, in rapid succession, *quick-quick-quick-quick*.

Dr. Hoy states that the male of this species, during the nesting-season, may frequently be seen flying high in the air, sporting, vaulting, and turning somersaults on the wing, which habit has given to it the name of Tumbler-Hawk. No Hawk is harder to shoot, and none commits greater havoc among barn-yard fowls than this species. He has seen one strike a large hen while she was flying wildly for safety, and kill her on the spot, though it was obliged to abandon the game, as it proved too heavy to carry off.

I have specimens of its eggs from South Carolina, obtained by the young sons of Rev. M. A. Curtis, of Society Hill. Mr. Curtis, Sen., furnished me with the following description of its nest: "The nest of the Cooper's Hawk was built in the triple fork of a tall black gum (*Nyssa multiflora*), near the top of the tree, which stood in a swamp. It was formed of a layer of small sticks,  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter. Its external diameter varied from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet. This layer was  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch in thickness, with only a slight depression in the centre, hardly enough to keep the eggs from rolling out. A few thin pieces of pine bark formed the bed for the eggs."

Another nest, obtained in Randolph, Vt., by Charles S. Paine, Esq., is thus described by him: "The nest was built of hemlock twigs, and lined with small, thin pieces of hemlock bark, such as hang loosely on the tree. The Hawk, when the nest was approached, did not whistle, as some others of that family do, but uttered a cry of *ge! ge! ge! ge!* This was repeated several times, with great rapidity, by both male and female.

The average size of the eggs of this bird is 1.56 by 1.94 inches. The color is usually a uniform dull white, but is occasionally tinged with as light bluish shade. They are nearly spherical, though not more so than the eggs of several species, and are equal at either end. Their surface is slightly granulated. The number of the eggs varies from three to four, though occasionally there are five in a nest.

The maximum length of the egg of this species is 2.00 inches, the minimum 1.85; the maximum breadth 1.60, the minimum 1.50 inches. In occasional instances I have known the eggs of this species more or less distinctly marked, especially about the larger end, with blotches of a light yellowish-brown. Those most distinctly marked in this manner were taken and identified by Mr. Paine.

A nest of this Hawk, found by Dr. J. W. Velie, was built on a poplar-tree, about forty feet from the ground, and was composed of sticks and lined with moss and leaves. There was a small cleared space of three or four rods in extent, in the middle of which the tree stood, and about a quarter of a mile from the main channel of the Mississippi River, on Rock Island.

The Cooper Hawk was found on Mount Tom by Mr. William Street, nesting for the most part in pine or hemlock trees, usually choosing one in a thick clump. They begin to lay about the first of May, usually depositing four eggs. They are very shy, and it is almost impossible to get within shot of them, even when they have young. They rarely molest the poultry-yard, but seem to live chiefly on small birds and animals. They leave their nest at once whenever it is approached, and will not return until the intruder has gone.

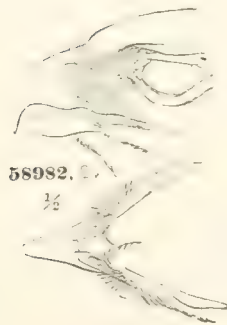
The var. *mexicanus*, originally described by Mr. Swainson from Mexican specimens obtained near Real del Monte, has been ascertained to cross our boundaries, and is found in all the territory between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific, as far north as Washington Territory. Dr. Cooper has never met with this Hawk, but supposes its general habits, and especially those regulating its migrations, closely resemble those of *A. cooperi*, to which the bird itself, in all but size, is so similar. Dr. Coues speaks of it as a common resident species in Arizona. He states that he has seen young birds of this species, reared by the hand from the nest, become so thoroughly domesticated as to come to their master on being whistled for, and perch on his shoulder, or follow him when shooting small birds for their food. They were allowed their entire liberty. Their ordinary note was a shrill and harsh scream. A low, plaintive, lisping whistle was indicative of hunger.

Dr. Suckley, who met with this bird on Puget Sound, where a specimen was shot on a salt marsh, states that, while soaring about, it resembled in its motions the common Marsh Hawk, or Hen Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*).



SUBGENUS **ASTUR**, LAEPFEDÉ.*Aster*, LAEPFÉ, 1809. (Type, *Falco palmarum*, LINN.)*Ichthyophaga*, SAVIGNY, 1809. (*Ichthyophaga*, AGASS.*Sparrius*, VIEILL. 1816.*Aster*, SWAINS. 1837.*Lophospiza*, KAUP, 1844. (Type, *Falco borealis*, Gmel.)

The characters of this subgenus have been sufficiently indicated on page 221, so that it is unnecessary to repeat them here. The species of *Astur* are far less numerous than those of *Visus*, only about six, including geo-

*Astur atricapillus*

graphical races, being known. They are found in nearly all parts of the world, except tropical America, the Sandwich Islands, and the East Indies.

**Species and Races.**

**A. palumbarius.** Wing, 12.00–14.50; tail, 9.50–12.75; culmen, .80–1.00; tarsus, 2.70–3.15; middle toe, 1.70–2.20. Fourth quill longest; first shortest. *Adult.* Above, continuously uniform slate-color, or brown; the tail with several more or less distinct broad bands of darker, and narrowly tipped with white. Beneath white, with transverse lines or bars of the same color as the upper surface. Top of the head blackish; a streaked whitish superciliary stripe. *Young.* Above much variegated with brown and pale ochraceous; bands on the tail more sharply defined. Beneath pale ochraceous, with longitudinal stripes of dark brown.

*Adult.* Above umber-brown, without conspicuously darker shaft-streaks; top of the head dull dusky. Markings on the lower parts in the form of sharply defined, broad, detached, crescentic bars, and of an umber tint; throat barred. Tail with five broad, well-defined bands of blackish. Wing, 12.25–14.25; tail, 9.40–11.10; culmen, .80–.95;

tarsus, 2.80–3.15; middle toe, 1.80–2.20. *Hab.* Northern portions of the Old World . . . . . var. *palumbarius*.<sup>1</sup>  
*Adult.* Above bluish slate-color, with conspicuous darker shaft-streaks; top of the head deep black; markings on the lower parts in the form of irregularly defined, narrow, zigzag bars, or fine lines, of a bluish-slate tint; throat not barred. Tail with only about four indistinct bands of blackish. Wing, 12.00–14.70; tail, 9.50–12.75; culmen, .80–1.00; tarsus, 2.70–3.20; middle toe, 1.70–2.00. *Hab.* Northern portions of North America . . . . . var. *atricapillus*.

### ***Astur palumbarius*, var. *atricapillus* (WILS.).**

#### **AMERICAN GOSHAWK.**

*Falco atricapillus*, WILS. Am. Orn. 1808, pl. lii, f. 3. — BONAP. Nouv. Giorn. Pisa, XXV, pt. ii, p. 55. *Astur atricapillus*, BONAP. Os. Cuv. Règ. An. p. 33. — *IB.* List, 1838, 5; Consp. 31. — WILS. Am. Orn. II, 284. — KAUP. Monog. Falc. Jardine's Contr. Orn. 1850, 66. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 19, pl. ii, fig. 4 (ad.), f. 5 (♂ juv.). — NUTT. Man. 85. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 118. — NEWB. P. R. Rep. VI, iv, 74. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. Rep. XII, ii, 144. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, 1860, 110. — BLAKISTON, Ibis, III, 1861, 316. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 29. — BREWER, Oölogy, 1857, 17. *Falco palumbarius*, SAB. FRANKL. Exp. 670. — BONAP. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. II, 28. — AUD. Edinb. J. Nat. Geog. Sc. III, 145. — *IB.* B. Am. pl. cxli; Orn. Biog. II, 241. — GRAUD, B. Long Isl'd, 18. — PEAB. B. Mass. III, 77. *Astur palumbarius*, SW. & RICH. F. B. A. II, pl. xxvi. — JAMES. WILS. Am. Orn. I, 63. — AUD. Syn. B. Am. 18. — BREWER, WILS. Am. Orn. 685, pl. i, fig. 5. — GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. 63.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (44,940, Boston, Mass.; E. A. Samuels). Above continuous bluish-slate, shafts of the feather inconspicuously black; tail darker and less bluish, tipped with white (about .25 of an inch wide) and crossed by five broad, faintly defined bars of blackish, these most distinct on inner webs (the first concealed by the upper coverts, the second partially so; the last, or subterminal one, which is about twice as broad as the rest, measuring about one inch in width). Primaries darker than the tail (but not approaching black). Forehead, crown, occiput, and ear-coverts pure plumbeous-black; feathers snowy-white beneath the surface, much exposed on the occiput; a broad conspicuous supracoral stripe originating above the posterior angle of the eye, running back over the ear-coverts to the occiput, pure white, with fine streaks of black; lores and cheeks grayish-white. Lower parts white; the whole surface (except throat and lower tail-coverts) covered with numerous narrow transverse bars of slate; on the breast these are much broken and irregular, forming fine transverse zigzags; posteriorly they are more regular, and about .10 of an inch wide, the white a very little more. Chin, throat, and cheeks without transverse bars, but with very sharp shaft-lines of black; breast, sides, and abdomen, a medial longitudinal broad streak of slate on each feather, the shaft black; on the tibiae, where the transverse bars are narrower and more regular, the shaft-streaks are also

<sup>1</sup> *Astur palumbarius*, var. *palumbarius* (LINN.). *Falco palumbarius*, LINN. S. N. 1766, 130. *Astur p.*, CUV. Fig. An. ed. IV, I, 320; et AUCT. *Hab.* Europe and Asia.

*Species as recorded.* — National Museum, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 10; Boston Society, 5; Museum Comp. Zool., Cambridge, 1; New York Museum, 1. Total, 19.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 12.25–13.70; tail, 9.40–10.00; culmen, .80; tarsus, 3.00; middle toe, 1.80. ♀. Wing, 13.80–14.50; tail, 10.10–10.90; culmen, .90–.95; tarsus, 2.80–3.15; middle toe, 2.05–2.20.

finer; anal region finely barred; lower tail-coverts immaculate pure white. Lining of the wing barred more coarsely and irregularly than the breast; under surface of primaries with white prevailing, this growing more silvery toward the ends; longest (fourth) with six oblique transverse patches of slate, the outlines of which are much broken. Wing-formula, 4, 5, 3-6-2; 1=10. Wing, 13.00; tail, 9.50; tarsus, 3.70, naked portion, 1.35; middle toe, 2.00; inner, 1.21; outer, 1.37; posterior, 1.00.

No. 8,508 (Fort Steilacoom, Puget Sound, Washington Territory; Dr. Suckley. Var. *striatulus*, Ridgway). Similar to No. 44,940, but the upper surface more bluish, the shafts of the feathers more conspicuously black; the dorsal feathers nearly black around their borders. Tail-bands nearly obsolete. Lower parts with the ground-color fine bluish-ash, sprinkled transversely with innumerable zigzag dots of white, these gradually increasing in width posteriorly, where they take the form of irregular transverse bars: crissum sparsely and coarsely sprinkled with slaty. Each feather of the lower parts with a very sharply defined narrow shaft-stripe of deep black, these contrasting conspicuously with the bluish, finely marked ground-color. Under surface of primaries uniform slaty to their bases, the usual white spots being almost obsolete. Wing-formula, 4-5, 3-6-2-7-8-9, 1. Wing, 12.50; tail, 9.10; tarsus, 2.60, the naked portion, 1.40; middle toe, 1.75.

*Adult female* (12,239, Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. Ackhurst). Almost precisely similar to the male. Slate above less bluish; bands on tail more distinct, five dark ones (about .75 of an inch in width) across the brownish-slate; obscure light bands indicated on outer webs of primaries, corresponding with those on inner webs; lores more grayish than in male; bars beneath more regular; longitudinal streaks blacker and more sharply defined. Wing, 14.25; tail, 11.25; tarsus, 1.60-1.20; middle toe, 1.95; inner, 1.40; outer, 1.45; posterior, 1.30.

No. 59,892, (Colorado; F. V. Hayden, var. *striatulus*, Ridgway). Similar to male No. 8,508, described above, but differing as follows: interscapulars uniform with the rest of the upper surface; tail-bands appreciable, much broader than in ♀, No. 12,239, the subterminal one being 1.61, the rest 1.10, wide, instead of 1.10 and .70. The longest upper tail-coverts with narrow white tips; white spots on inner webs of primaries more distinct. Black shaft-streaks on lower surface broader and more conspicuous. Wing-formula, 4, 3, 5-6-2-7, 1=10. Wing, 14.70; tail, 11.50; tarsus, 2.50; the naked portion, 1.10: middle toe, 2.00.

*Young male* (second year, No. 26,920, Nova Scotia, June; W. G. Winton). Plumage very much variegated. Head above, nape, and anterior portion of the back, ochraceous-white, each feather with a central stripe of brownish-black, these becoming more tear-shaped on the nape. Scapulars, back, wing-coverts, rump, and upper tail-coverts umber-brown; the feathers with lighter edges, and with large, more or less concealed spots of white, — these are largest on the scapulars, where they occupy the basal and middle thirds of the feathers, a band of brown narrower than the subterminal one separating the two areas; upper tail-coverts similarly marked, but white edges broader, forming conspicuous terminal crescentic bars. Tail cinereous-umber, with five conspicuous bands of blackish-brown, the last of which is subterminal, and broader than the rest; tip of tail like the pale bands; the bands are most sharply defined on the inner webs, being followed along the edges by the white of the edge, which, frequently extending along the margin of the black, crosses to the shaft, and is sometimes even apparent on the outer web; the lateral feather has the inner web almost entirely white, this, however, more or less finely mottled with grayish, the mottling becoming more dense toward the end of the feather; the bands also cross more obliquely than on the middle feathers. Secondaries grayish-brown, with five indistinct, but quite apparent, dark bands; primaries marked as in the adult, but are much lighter. Beneath pure white, all the feathers, including lower tail-coverts, with sharp, central, longitudinal streaks of clear dark-brown, the shafts of the feathers

black; on the sides and where these streaks are expanded into a more approximate, elliptical form; the crissum only is immaculate, although the throat is only very sparsely streaked; on the ear-coverts the streaks are very fine and numerous, but uniformly distributed.

No. 18,404 (west of Fort Benton, on the Missouri, May 16, 1864; Captain Jas. A. Mullan, var. *striatulus*). Similar to No. 26,920, but colors much darker. Upper parts with dark brown prevailing, the pale borders to the feathers very narrow, and the basal very restricted and concealed; upper tail-coverts deep ashy-umber, tipped narrowly with white, and with large subterminal, transversely cordate, and other anterior bars of dusky. Tail ashy-brown, much darker than in No. 26,920, with five broad, sharply defined bands of blackish, without any distinct light bordering bar. White of the lower parts entirely destitute of any yellowish tinge, the stripes much broader than in No. 26,920, and deep brownish-black, the shafts not perceptibly darker; tibiae with transverse bars of dusky; lower tail-coverts with transverse spots of the same. Wing, 12.25; tail, 9.70.

*Young female* (second year, No. 26,921, Nova Scotia; W. G. Winton). Head above, nape, rump, and upper tail-coverts, with a deep ochraceous tinge; the characters of markings, however, as in the male. Bands on the tail more sharply defined, the narrow white bar separating the black from the grayish bands more continuous and conspicuous; lateral feathers more mottled; grayish tip of tail passing terminally into white. Beneath with a faint ochraceous wash, this most apparent on the lining of the wings and tibiae; streaks as in the male, but rather more numerous, the throat being thickly streaked.

No. 11,740 (Puget Sound, October 26, 1858; Dr. C. B. Kennerly. Var. *striatulus*). Similar to No. 18,404, but more uniformly blackish above; tip of tail more distinctly whitish; stripes beneath broader and deeper black, becoming broader and more tear-shaped posteriorly, some of the markings on the flanks being cordate, or even transverse. Wing-formula, 4, 5, 3-6, 2-7-8-9-10 = 1. Wing, 13.00; tail, 10.80; tarsus, 2.80; middle toe, 1.80.

*Young female* (first year, No. 49,662, Calais, Me.; G. A. Boardman). Differs from the female in the second year (No. 26,921) as follows: On the wings and upper tail-coverts the yellowish-white spots are less concealed, or, in fact, this forms the ground-color; secondary coverts ochraceous-white, with two very distant transverse spots of dark brown, rather narrower than the white spaces; tips of feathers broadly white; secondaries grayish-brown, tipped with white, more mottled with the same toward bases, and crossed by five bands of dark brown, the first two of which are concealed by the coverts, the last quite a distance from the end of the feathers; upper tail-coverts white, mottled on inner webs with brown, each with two transverse broad bars, and a sub-terminal cordate spot of dark brown, the last not touching the edge of the feather, and the anterior bars both concealed by the overlaying feather. Tail grayish-brown, tipped with white, and with six bands of blackish-brown; these bordered with white as in the older stage. Markings beneath as in the older stage, but those on the sides more cordate. Wing-formula, 4, 5, 3-6-7-2-8-9, 1, 10. Wing, 14.00; tail, 11.50.

In regard to the form indicated in the above descriptions as "var. *striatulus*, Ridgway," I am as yet undecided whether to recognize it as a geographical race, or to merely consider the two adult plumages as representing different ages of the same form. Certain it is that there is a decided difference in the young plumage, between the birds of this species from the eastern portion of North America and those from the western regions; these differences consisting in the very much darker colors of the western individuals, as shown by the above descriptions. My first impression in regard to the adult dress,



after making the first critical examination of the series at my command, was, that the coarsely mottled specimens were confined to the east, and that those finely mottled beneath were peculiar to the west; and this view I am not yet prepared to yield. I have never seen an adult bird from any western locality which agrees with the eastern ones described above; all partake of the same characters as those described, in being finely and faintly mottled beneath, with sharp black shaft-streaks, producing the effect of a nearly uniform bluish ground, the black streaks in conspicuous contrast, the tail-bands nearly obsolete, etc. But occasional, not to say frequent, individuals obtained in the eastern States, which agree in these respects with the western style, rather disfavor the view that these differences are regional, unless we consider that these troublesome individuals, being, of course, winter migrants, have strayed eastward from the countries where they were bred. The Colorado female described above exhibits a rather suspicious feature in having a single feather, on the lower parts, which is coarsely barred, as in the eastern style, while all the rest are finely waved and marbled as in the western. If this would suggest that the differences supposed to be climatic or geographical are in reality only dependent on age, it would also indicate that the finely mottled individuals are the older ones.

If future investigations should substantiate this suggestion as to the existence of an eastern and a western race of Goshawk in North America, they would be distinguished by the following characters:—

Var. **atricapillus**. *Adult*. Markings of the lower surface coarse and ragged; feathers of the pectoral region with broad medial longitudinal streaks of the same slaty tint as the transverse bars, and with only the shafts black. Tail-bands distinct. *Young*. Pale ochraceous markings prevailing in extent over the darker (clear grayish-umber) spotting. Stripes beneath narrow, clear brownish; those on the flanks linear. Wing, 12.25–14.25; tail, 10.00–12.75; culmen, .80–1.00; tarsus, 2.90–3.15; middle toe, 1.70–1.95. *Hab*. Eastern region of North America.

Var. **striatulus**. *Adult*. Markings of the lower parts fine and delicate, and so dense as to present the appearance of a nearly uniform bluish-ashy surface; feathers of the pectoral region without the medial stripes of slaty, but with broad shaft-streaks of deep black, contrasting very conspicuously with the finely mottled general surface. Tail-bands obsolete. *Young*. Darker (brownish-black) markings prevailing in extent over the lighter (nearly clear white) ones. Stripes beneath broad, brownish-black; those on the flanks cordate and transverse. Wing, 12.00–13.60; tail, 9.50–12.20; culmen, .85–1.00; tarsus, 2.70–3.15; middle toe, 1.70–1.85. *Hab*. Western region of North America.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

##### Var. *atricapillus*.

National Museum, 8; Philadelphia Academy, 7; New York Museum, 3; Boston Society, 2; G. N. Lawrence, 4; W. S. Brewer, 2; Museum, Cambridge, 2; R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 30.

*Measurements.*

Sex.	Wing	Tail	Culmen.	Tarsus	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	12.25 - 13.00	10.00 - 10.50	.80 - .85	2.90 - 3.05	1.70 - 1.80	5
♀	14.00 - 14.25	11.50 - 12.75	.90 - 1.00	2.90 - 3.15	1.80 - 1.95	7

*Var. stricklandi.*

National Museum, 9; R. Ridgway, 1; Museum, Cambridge, 1 (Massachusetts?). Total, 11.

*Measurements.*

Sex	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	12.00 - 13.25	9.50 - 10.00	.85 - .90	2.70 - 3.00	1.70 - 1.80	8
♀	13.50 - 13.60	11.80 - 12.20	.90 - 1.00	3.00 - 3.15	1.85 -	2

**HABITS.** The dreaded Blue Hen Hawk, as our Goshawk is usually called in New England, is a bird of somewhat irregular occurrence south of the 44th parallel. It occurs in the vicinity of Boston from November to March, but is never very common. In other parts of the State it is at times not uncommon at this season. It is common throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Northern Maine, and may undoubtedly be found breeding in the northern portions of New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. In the summer of 1872, Mr. George Baxter, of Danville, Vt., procured a nest containing three young birds, which were sent to the New York Central Park. Mr. Downes speaks of it as

*Astur atricapillus.*

"far too common" in the vicinity of Halifax, where it is very destructive to Ducks, Pigeons, and poultry. Mr. Boardman gives it as common near Calais, where it breeds, and where he has taken its eggs. Mr. Verrill mentions it as resident in Western Maine, where it is one of the most common Hawks. Mr. Allen found it usually rare near Springfield, but remarkably common during the winter of 1859-60. He afterwards mentions that since then, and for the last ten winters, he has known them to be quite common during several seasons. Mr. C. J. Maynard is confident that this species occasionally breed in Massachusetts. He once observed a pair at a

breeding in the retired recesses of the mountains, remaining there until their young were well able to fly, and then all descending to the open plains, where they obtain a more abundant supply of food.

National Museum, 8; Philadelphia Academy, 7; New York Museum, 3; Boston Society, 2; G. N. Lawrence, 4; W. S. Brewer, 2; Museum, Cambridge, 2; R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 30.

locality in Weston, until the latter part of May. It was found breeding in Iowa by Mr. S. N. Marston. Mr. Victor Brooke records in the *Ibis*, 1870, p. 538, the occurrence, in Ireland, of an example of this species. It was shot in the Galtee Mountains, in February, 1870. The bird was a mature female, with the ovary somewhat enlarged. The stomach contained the remains of a rabbit.

On the Pacific coast it is comparatively rare in California, though much more abundant farther north, in Oregon and in Washington Territory. Dr. Cooper noticed several in the dense spruce forests of Washington Territory, and regarded it as a special frequenter of dark woods, where other Hawks are rarely seen. Dr. Suckley also obtained several specimens of this bird both at Fort Dalles and at Fort Steilacoom.

Sir John Richardson met with this Hawk and procured several specimens in the Arctic regions, and Captain Blakiston also met with it in the valley of the Saskatchewan. He states that it ranges throughout the interior from Hudson's Bay to the Rocky Mountains and Mackenzie River. He found it breeding on the Saskatchewan, and one of his specimens was shot on its nest. The Goshawk was obtained at Sitka by Bischoff; and a pair was taken by Mr. Dall, April 24, 1867, within a few miles of Nulato Fort, on the Yukon River. The nest was on a large poplar, thirty feet above the ground, and made of small sticks. No eggs had been laid, but several nearly mature were found in the ovary of the female. The nest was on a small island in a thick grove of poplars, a situation which this species seemed to prefer. Mr. Dall adds that this was the most common Hawk in the valley of the Yukon, where it feeds largely on the White Ptarmigan (*Lagopus albus*), tearing off the skin and feathers, and eating only the flesh. Mr. Dall received skins from the Kuskokwim River, where it was said to be a resident species.

Dr. Suckley speaks of this Hawk as bold, swift, and strong, never hesitating to sweep into a poultry-yard, catch up a chicken, and make off with it almost in a breath. Its manner of seizing its prey was by a horizontal approach for a short distance, elevated but a few feet from the ground, a sudden downward sweep, and then, without stopping its flight, making its way to a neighboring tree with the struggling victim securely fastened in its talons. For strength, intrepidity, and fury, Dr. Suckley adds, it cannot be surpassed. It seems to display great cunning, seizing very opportune moments for its attacks. In one instance it was several days before he was able to have one of these birds killed, although men were constantly on the watch for it. So adroit was it in seizing opportunities to make its attacks, that it regularly visited the poultry-yard three times a day, and yet always contrived to escape unmolested. He found these birds much more plentiful during some months than at other times, and attributed it to their breeding in the retired recesses of the mountains, remaining there until their young were well able to fly, and then all descending to the open plains, where they obtain a more abundant supply of food.





Mr. Audubon states that in Maine the Goshawk was said to prey upon hares, the Canada and Ruffed Grouse, and upon Wild Ducks. They were so daring as to come to the very door of the farm-house, and carry off their prey with such rapidity as to baffle all endeavors to shoot them. Mr. Audubon found this Hawk preying upon the Wild Ducks in Canoe Creek, near Henderson, Ky., during a severe winter; as the banks were steep and high, he had them at a disadvantage, and secured a large number of them. They caught the Mallards with great ease, and, after killing them, tore off the feathers with great deliberation and neatness, eating only the flesh of the breast.

The flight of this bird he describes as both rapid and protracted, sweeping along with such speed as to enable it to seize its prey with only a slight deviation from its course, and making great use of its long tail in regulating both the direction and the rapidity of its course. It generally flies high, with a constant beat of the wings, rarely moving in large circles in the manner of other Hawks. It is described as a restless bird, vigilant and industrious, and seldom alighting except to devour its prey. When perching, it keeps itself more upright than most other Hawks.

Audubon narrates that he once observed one of these birds give chase to a large flock of the Purple Grakles, then crossing the Ohio River. The Hawk came upon them with the swiftness of an arrow; the Blackbirds, in their fright, rushing together in a compact mass. On overtaking them, it seized first one, and then another and another, giving each a death-squeeze, and then dropping it into the water. In this manner it procured five before the poor birds could reach the shelter of a wood; and then, giving up the chase, swept over the waters, picking up the fruits of its industry, and carrying each bird singly to the shore.

Mr. Audubon, who observed these Hawks in the Great Pine Forest of Pennsylvania, and on the banks of the Niagara River, near the Falls, describes a nest as placed on the branches of a tree, and near the trunk. It was of great size, and resembled that of a Crow in the manner of its construction, but was much flatter. It was made of withered twigs and coarse grass, with a lining of fibrous strips of plants resembling hemp. Another, found by Mr. Audubon in the month of April, contained three eggs ready to be hatched. In another the number was four.

Mr. Dall states that the eggs are usually four in number, of a greenish-white color, and were usually all laid by the first of May. An egg of this bird, obtained by Mr. Dall at Nulato, April 27, 1858, measures 2.28 inches in length and 1.90 in breadth. It is of a rounded-oval shape, and is of a uniform dead-white color, with hardly a tinge of green. Another, obtained by Mr. Charles Pease near the head-waters of the Unalakleet River, measures 2.32 by 1.80 inches, and the ground-color is more distinctly greenish-white. A few small spots of a bronze-brown are scattered in isolated marking irregularly over the egg. Lieutenant Bendire writes that he has found

the eggs of this Hawk in Montana; that their number in a set is usually two, and an unspotted white.

GENUS **ASTURINA**, Vieillot.

*Asturina*, Vieill. 1816. Type, *Falco catulops*, Latham.

GEN. CHAR. Somewhat similar to *Astur*, but of much heavier and more robust build; tarsi longer and stouter, tail shorter and less rounded, wings longer, etc. Bill more elongated than in *Astur*, the cere longer, and the festoon on the commissure more developed; nostril oval, horizontal. Wings rather short, but less concave beneath than in *Astur*; third to fourth quill longest; first shorter than eighth or ninth; four outer quills



with their inner webs sinuated. Tail considerably shorter than the wing, slightly emarginated, the lateral pair of feathers longest. Feet large and robust, when outstretched reaching almost to the end of the tail; tarsi very robust compared to the toes, about one and a half times as long as the middle toe, the frontal and posterior rows of transverse scutellæ very distinct and regular; outer toe longer than inner; claws strong, well curved, but not very acute. Sexes alike in color; old and young plumages very different.

This genus is peculiar to tropical America, and contains but a single species, the *A. nitida*, with its two climatic races, *nitida* of South America and *plagiata* of Middle America. The species of *Rupornis*, Kaup (*R. magnirostris* and *R. leucorrhœa*), have been associated with the species of the present genus, but they are very distinct. The genera (or, more properly, subgenera) most nearly related to *Asturina* are *Leucopternis*, Kaup, of tropical America, and *Kaupifalco*, Bonap., of Western Africa. The former differs mainly in more or less rounded, instead of emarginated, tail, and in having the old and young plumages similar; the latter in having the posterior face of the tarsus without a well-defined row of transverse scutellæ.

## Species and Races.

**A. nitida.** Wing, 9.80–11.50; tail, 6.70–8.00; culmen, .80–1.00; tarsus, 2.50–2.90; middle toe, 1.40–1.75. *Adult.* Above clear ash, pale on the head and darker on the nape; the general surface with more or less appreciable transverse bars, or indications of bars, of a paler shade, and with darker shafts. Upper tail-coverts immaculate white. Tail deep black, fading into pale grayish-brown at the end, narrowly tipped with white, and crossed by two to three white bands. Lower parts, including the tibiae, axillars, and throat, regularly barred with deep ash and white, the two colors about equal in extent; crown and cross an immaculate white. *Young.* Above blackish-brown, variegated with pinkish-ochraceous. Tail umber, tipped with pinkish-brown or dull whitish, and crossed by six to seven narrow bands of black. Beneath white, sometimes tinged with ochraceous; the breast, abdomen, and sides with longitudinal tear-shaped spots of black.

*Adult.* Upper surface distinctly barred, the lighter bars predominating; the top of the head as distinctly barred as the lower parts.

*Young.* Tibiæ immaculate white or pale ochraceous. Culmen, .80–.90.

*Hab.* South America, from S. E. Brazil and W. Ecuador, to Panama.

var. *nitida*.<sup>1</sup>

*Adult.* Upper surface only obsoletely barred, or almost uniform; the top of the head without any bars. *Young.* Tibiæ transversely barred with dusky. Culmen, .75–.80. *Hab.* Middle America, north to the southern border of the United States; straying northward in the Mississippi Valley, to Southern Illinois . . . . . var. *plagiata*.

<sup>1</sup> *Asteria nitida*, var. *nitida* (LATH.). *Falco nitidas*, LATH. Ind. Orn. I, 40. — DAUD. — TEMM. — SPH. *Astur n.*, D'ORB. Voy. Ois. p. 95. — BURM. Syst. Neb. II, 68. — LIEB. Ois. Trin. p. 46. — GRAY. — VIG. — SELPHENS. — LESS. — D'ORB. *Asturina n.*, BONAP. Conspect. p. 30. — CABAN. in SCHOMB. Guian. III, 737. — PELZ. Orn. Blas. p. 3. — SCH. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1864, 369; 1867, 589; 1868, 173; 1860, 288; 1869, 130. — KAUP. — LAW. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. VII, 316. *Dadalion n.*, LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 65. *Asturina cinerea*, VIEILL. Anal. 24, 68; Nouv. Dict. III, 41; Enc. Méth. III, 1260; Gal. Ois. pl. xx. — VIG. Zööl. J. I, 324, 327. — STEPH. Zööl. XIII, pt. ii. *Cymindis c.*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 91. *Astur striolatus*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 332.

*Specimens examined.* — Philadelphia Academy, 8; New York Museum, 1; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 3; Boston Society, 4 (Brazil); Museum, Cambridge, 2 (Panama). Total, 18.

*Measurements.* — Sex not indicated. Wing, 9.80–10.20; tail, 7.00–8.00; culmen, .80–.90; tarsus, 2.55–2.78; middle toe, 1.60–1.65.



***Asturina nitida*, var. *plagiata* (SCHLEG.).****MEXICAN HAWK.**

*Asturina nitida*, CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 35. — SCL. & SALV. Ibis, 1859, 217. — SALV. Ibis, 1861, 68. — SCL. P. Z. S. 1857, pp. 201, 227; 1859, pp. 368, 389; 1864, 178. — LAWR. Ann. N. Y. Lyc. IX, 133. — OWEN, Ibis, III, 1868 (egg white). *Asturina cinerea*, CASS. P. A. N. S. 1855, 283 (not of VIEILL.!). *Asturina plagiata*, SCHLEG. Mus. Pays-Bas. *Asturina*, p. 1. — SCL. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1868, 173; 1869, 130. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 30, 1869. — RIDGW. Am. Nat. VI, July, 1872, 430; VII, April, 1873, 203; (Southern Illinois, August).

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (51,343, Mazatlan, Mexico; Ferd. Bischoff. "Length, 16.00; extent, 38.00"). Above deep, rather dark cinereous, becoming paler and finer on the head above, where the feathers have the shafts (finely) black; wings with obsolete lighter bars; rump almost black. Upper tail-coverts immaculate pure white. Tail pure black, tipped with pale grayish-brown (this passing terminally into white); about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the tip is a continuous band of white, half an inch in width; and a little over an inch anterior to this is another narrower and less perfect one. Primaries approaching black at ends; the tips broadly edged with dull white, as also the ends of secondaries. Head uniform fine delicate ashy, becoming white on chin and throat, and approaching the same on the forehead; shafts of feathers on head above, and neck, black; neck with obsolete paler transverse bars, these most distinct on jugulum; the breast, abdomen, sides, flanks, axillars, and tibiae are regularly barred transversely with cinereous and pure white, the bars of each about equal, the white, however, gradually increasing, and the ashy bars narrowing posteriorly, the tibiae being finely barred; lower tail-coverts immaculate pure white. Lining of the wing white, with very sparse, faint, transverse zigzag bars next the axillars and on larger coverts; under surface of primaries white anterior to their emargination, beyond which they are more silvery, leaving about an inch of the terminal portion black, the end of each, however, ashy; outer two quills crossed by narrow bars of ashy, the rest with indications of the same, near the shaft. Fourth quill longest; third scarcely shorter; second shorter than fifth; first intermediate between eighth and ninth. Wing, 10.50; tail, 7.00; tarsus, 2.60; middle toe, 1.50.

*Adult female* (34,002, Mazatlan, June; Colonel Grayson). Cinereous above darker, the fasciae of the wings hardly observable; front and throat scarcely whitish; rump almost pure black; second tail-band much broken and restricted. Ashy prevailing on the jugulum; ashy bars beneath rather broader. Wings, 11.00; tail, 7.50; tarsus, 2.80; middle toe, 1.70.

*Young male* (35,060, Rio de Coahuayana, W. Mexico, October; J. Xantus). Above, from bill to upper tail-coverts, dark bistre-brown, almost black; feathers of the head and neck edged laterally with pinkish-ochraceous, or sulphuret of manganese color; scapulars with nearly whole outer webs of this color, they being blackish only along edges and at ends; middle wing-coverts spotted with the same. Secondaries and primaries faintly tipped with whitish; secondaries with indications of darker bands, and outer webs of primaries with still more obscure ones; upper tail-coverts white, with sagittate specks of black, one or two on each. Tail umber-brown (considerably lighter than the wings), tipped with pinkish-ash (this passing terminally into dull white), and crossed with six or seven bands of black (these becoming gradually, but very considerably, narrower toward the base). Beneath white, with vinaceous tinge (this deepest laterally); breast, abdomen, and sides with large tear-shaped or cuneate spots of black; tibiae with numerous transverse bars of the same.

*Young female*. Similar to last, but the brown lighter, and more approaching umber.

HAB. Middle America (from coast to coast, from Costa Rica and Guatemala to southern border of United States, Arizona, breeding (BENDIRE). Southern Illinois (Richland Co.) June (RIDGWAY).

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 13; Philadelphia Academy, 3; Boston Society, 5; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 1; R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 24.

*Measurements.*

Sex	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus	Middle Toe	Specimens
♂	9.80-11.50	7.20-7.80	.85-.95	2.50-2.70	1.55-1.70	7
♀	9.50-11.30	6.70-8.00	.80-1.00	2.75-2.70	1.40-1.75	4
o?	10.00-11.70	6.80-8.00	.90-.95	2.65-2.80	1.50-1.65	4

HABITS. This is a Mexican and Central American Hawk, which occasionally crosses the borders of the United States, having been seen by Mr. Ridgway in Southern Illinois, and found breeding, by Captain Bendire, in Arizona, near Tucson. It has been found in the State of New Leon, one of the most northern provinces of Mexico, by Lieutenant Couch, who has, however, supplied no notes as to any peculiarities in its habits. It was said to breed in the tops of lofty trees, and to have eggs of a greenish-white, resembling those of *Astur atricapillus*. In Central America it is said by Salvin to be abundant in the hot country on both coast regions of the Republic of Guatemala, but it is not found in the temperate regions. Its food consists of lizards, and its flesh is in consequence very rank.

*Asturina plagiata.*

Mr. Robert Ridgway has met with this Hawk as far to the north as Southern Illinois. It was seen and twice shot at on the 19th of August, 1871, on Fox Prairie, in Richland County. Mr. Ridgway came across it while hunting Swallow-tail and Mississippi Kites. The bird, while being annoyed by these Hawks, was well seen, and there cannot be the slightest doubt as to its identity.

Mr. Robert Owen found this Hawk, known in Guatemala by the local name of *Garilan*, a common name for the whole race of birds of prey, breeding at San Geronimo, April 3, 1860. The nests are usually found in the high trees which are scattered over the plain, and not unfrequently within a few yards of the Indian ranchos. Two eggs seemed to be the complement laid by one bird. These eggs are described by Mr. Owen as all



white, without any natural coloring. The inner coating of the shell is sea-green, seeming to confirm the apparently close connection between the genera of *Astur* and *Asturina*.

Mr. G. C. Taylor met what he presumed to be this Hawk in great abundance at Comayagua, Honduras, in January. He saw a pair making their nest on the top of a lofty cotton-tree.

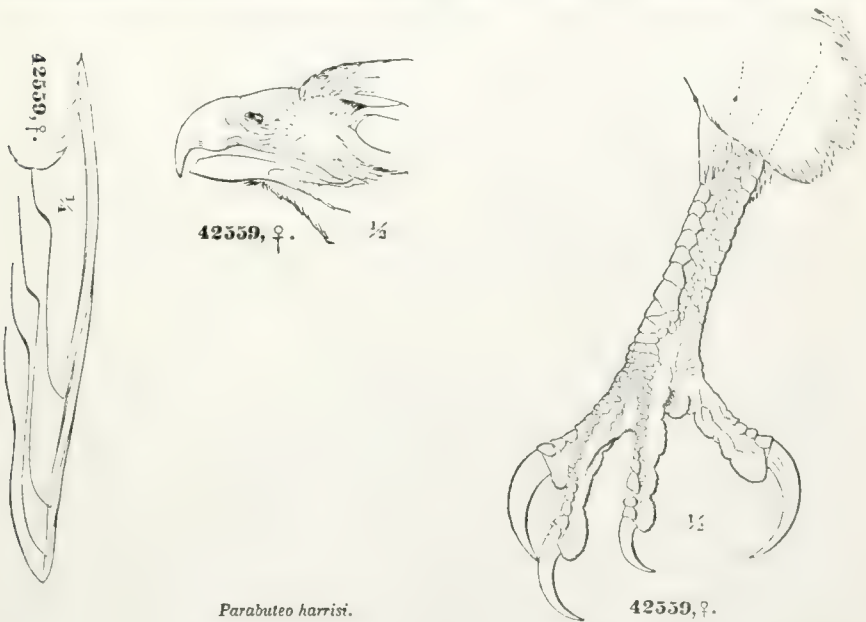
Captain Bendire found this species not uncommon and breeding in the vicinity of Tucson, in Arizona. He found two nests, one of which was taken June 6, the other a few days later. They were very slightly built of sticks and strips of bark, and placed in low trees on the banks of Reledo Creek. The nest contained two eggs. These are of a rounded oval shape, are quite tapering at one end and rounded at the other. They are of a uniform bluish-white color and unspotted, and measure 2.00 inches in length by 1.60 inches in breadth.

#### GENUS **ANTENOR**, RIDGWAY.

*Antenor*, RIDGWAY. (Type, *Fulco harrisi*, AUD.)

*Craxirex*, AUTHORS, not of GOULD.<sup>1</sup>

GEN. CHAR. Similar to *Asturina*, but form heavier, the bill and wings more elongated, the tail slightly rounded, and the lores almost naked. Bill very much as in *Asturina*, but



*Parabuteo harrisi*.

more elongated, the top of the cere longer in proportion to the culmen, and the commissural lobe more anterior; the upper and lower outlines more nearly parallel. Nostril

<sup>1</sup> The type of *Craxirex*, GOULD (Voyage of Beagle, 1838, 22), is the *Buteo galapagoensis*, GOULD, a species strictly congeneric with *Buteo borealis*.





oval, horizontal, with an exposed cartilaginous tubercle. Lores nearly naked, with scant bristles. Wing long (much as in *Buteo*); the fourth or fifth quill longest, and the first shorter than the eighth to the tenth; outer four with inner webs sinuated. Tail long, more than two thirds the wing; even or slightly rounded. Feet robust, when outstretched reaching nearly to the end of the tarsus; tarsus nearly twice the length of the middle toe; very robust, the frontal and posterior rows of scutellæ very distinct; outer toe longer than the inner; claws strong, well curved, and acute. Sexes alike; young and old plumages very different.

This genus includes a single species, the *P. uncinatus*, with its two climatic races, *uncinatus* of South America and *harrisi* of Middle America. It is most nearly related to the genus *Urubitinga*, of tropical America, the species of which are sluggish and almost Caracara-like in their habits, though they are hardly more so than our own *Buteones*. The genus *Craxirex* of Gould having been founded upon *Buteo galapagoensis*, a species strictly congeneric with *B. borealis*, it is necessary that a new generic name should be instituted for the present species, since it so well merits separation to that rank. I accordingly propose the name given at the head of this chapter.

#### Species and Races.

**P. uncinatus.** Wing, 11.65–14.60; tail, 9.00–11.00; culmen, .82–1.10; tarsus, 2.78–3.75; middle toe, 1.52–2.00. *Adult.* General color brownish-black or blackish-brown, uniform, or slightly variegated by light spotting; the lesser wing-coverts and tibiæ deep rufous, or chestnut. Tail black; the end and base white, as are also the tail-coverts. *Young.* Plumage greatly variegated. Above blackish-brown, the feathers edged with rusty; head and neck streaked with pale ochraceous. Lower parts pale ochraceous or yellowish-white, the breast and abdomen with longitudinal ovoid spots of blackish; tibiæ with transverse bars of dark rusty; lower tail-coverts with black shaft-streaks. Lesser wing-covert region only washed with rufous. Tail grayish-brown, whitish at the tip, and crossed by narrow bands of dusky.

*Adult* with the blackish much broken up by lighter spotting. Wing, 11.65–14.60; tail, 9.00–10.50; culmen, .82–1.02; tarsus, 2.78–3.40; middle toe, 1.52–1.85. *Hab.* South America . . . var. *uncinatus*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Falco uncinatus*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 313, 1820. *Morphnus uncinatus*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 1828, 90. *Astur uncinatus*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 1829, 332. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 221. — KAUP, Monog. Falc. 1850, p. 56. *Buteo uncinatus*, GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. 18. — IB. Hand List, I, 7, No. 55. *Nisus uncinatus*, LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 61. *Hypomorphnus uncinatus*, TSCHUDI, Fauna Per. pp. 17, 85. *Spizageranus uncinatus*, KAUP, Ueb. Senck. 1845, 260. *Urubitinga uncinata*, LAFR. Rev. Zool. 1849, 99. — PELZ. Orn. Bras. I, 1868, 3, No. 10. — IB. IV, 1871, 394. *Polyborus tenuis*, TSCHUDI, Av. Consp. Wieg. Arch. 1844, 264. — IB. Fauna Per. pl. ii, *Juv.* It seems that the South American birds of this species never attain the simple tricolored plumage assumed by the adult of the North American form, Temminck's figure (Pl. Col. 313) representing the nearest approach to it that I have seen, in a large series of adult specimens. The following descriptions show the average adult of var. *uncinatus*:—

*Adult male* (No. 13,908, Chile; Lieutenant Gilliss). Resembling the immature of var. *harrisi*, as described on p. 1569 (No. 56,763). Primaries edged terminally with whitish; inner webs of tail-feathers mottled whitish for their basal half, not showing the regular transverse bars seen in the immature of var. *harrisi*; under surface of primaries almost wholly white, becoming ashy, barred with dusky, towards their ends. Wing, 12.00; tail, 8.30; tarsus, 2.90; middle

*Adult* with the blackish continuous and uniform. Wing, 12.35–14.50; tail, 9.80–11.00; culmen, .90–1.10; tarsus, 3.15–3.75; middle toe, 1.65–2.00. *Hab.* Middle America, north into southern border of United States. . . . . *Var. harrisi*.

***Parabuteo unicinctus*, var. *harrisi* (RIDGWAY).**

**HARRIS'S BUZZARD.**

*Falco harrisi*, AUD. B. Am. pl. coenob., 1831. — IB. Orn. Biog. V, 30. *Buteo harrisi*, AUD. Synop., 1839, 5. — BONAP. List, 3. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 11. — *Opinion unicinctus*, var. *harrisi*, RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Philad. Dec. 1870, p. 142. *Buteo unicinctus*, var. *harrisi*, COUES, Key, 1872, 215. "*Circus unicinctus*, TEMM." Cass. Birds N. Am. 1858, 46. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 329 (Texas). — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 13 (Arizona).

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (17,230, Cape St. Lucas, Lower California; J. Xantus). General plumage uniform sooty-black, purest on the tail, somewhat tinged with chestnut on the rump. Lesser wing-coverts and lateral half of each web of middle coverts, also the tibiae, rich deep chestnut, perfectly uniform. Upper and lower tail-coverts, and broad basal and terminal zones of tail, pure white, the anterior band concealed (except on outer feathers) by the upper coverts, and about twice the width of the last, which is about 1 inch wide. Tail-coverts with a few irregular narrow shaft-streaks of blackish. Lining of wing deep chestnut, like the shoulders; each greater covert with a black shaft-streak; primaries beneath plain black. Wing, 14.50; tail, 10.00; tarsus, 3.25; middle toe, 2.00. Fourth and fifth quills longest and equal; third considerably shorter; second intermediate between sixth and seventh; first 3.40 shorter than longest.

*Adult female* (42,559, Iztlan, Mexico; Colonel Grayson). Generally similar to the male; the black, however, less pure and more brownish, the chestnut more extended, the whole rump being of this color, the last feathers merely being blackish in the middle. White of tail-coverts without blackish streaks. Wing, 14.60; tail, 10.30; tarsus, 3.25; middle toe, 1.95.

*Immature male* (second year, 50,763, Tepic, Mexico; Colonel Grayson). Upper parts similar to adult, but less uniform; the nape and back with feathers edged with rusty; sides of head and neck very much streaked. Breast and abdomen light ochraceous, with large longitudinal oval spots of black; tibiae light ochraceous, with rather distant transverse bars of dark rusty-brown; lower tail-coverts ochraceous-white, with black shaft-lines. Rufous on the wings more extended and more broken; none on the rump. Terminal band of tail narrower and less sharply defined than in adult; inner webs of primaries with basal two-thirds white, irregularly mottled with dusky. "Iris chestnut-brown; cere, chin, and space round the eyes yellow."

*Immature female* (second year, 15,260, Fort Buchanan, New Mexico; Dr. Irwin). Black spots beneath larger and more irregularly defined; tibiae strongly barred with dark rufous; posterior edge of basal band of tail much broken.

**HAB.** Middle, or northern tropical, America, from the Isthmus of Panama northward to toe, 1.60. *Adult female* (No. 13,907, Chile; Lieutenant Gilliss). Similar to No. 13,908, but the tibiae more strongly barred. Wing, 12.50; tail, 8.30.

*Specimens examined.* — National Museum, 9; Philadelphia Academy, 9; Boston Society, 4; New York Museum, 1. Total, 23.

*Measurements.* — ♂. Wing, 11.65–13.15; tail, 9.00–10.10; culmen, .82–1.00; tarsus, 2.78–3.40; middle toe, 1.52–1.75. Specimens, 8. ♀. Wing, 12.50–14.60; tail, 9.20–10.50; culmen, .90–1.02; tarsus, 3.10–3.40; middle toe, 1.60–1.85. Specimens, 6.

into the southern United States; Mississippi (AUDUBON); Texas (MUS. S. I.; DRESSER); AMERICA (COLES).

Localities: Guatemala (Sci. Hist. I, 216).

LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 13; Philadelphia Academy, 3; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 2; Coll. R. Ridgway, 1. Total, 19.

Measurements.

Sex	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe	Specimens
♂	12.35 - 13.75	9.80 - 10.20	.90 - .95	3.15 - 3.20	1.65 - 1.70	8
♀	14.25 - 14.50	10.80 - 11.00	1.08 - 1.10	3.40 - 3.75	1.90 - 2.00	6

**HABITS.** This Hawk has a very limited range within the United States, and Mr. Audubon, who was the first to meet with it there, obtained only a single specimen from Louisiana. Supposing it to be an undescribed species, he named it in honor of his friend, Mr. Edward Harris.

This species is occasionally found in the lower portions of the States of Mississippi and Louisiana, but becomes much more abundant in the southwestern sections of the latter State, and in Texas is common, especially about the mouth of the Rio Grande. In one variety or the other it is frequently met with throughout Mexico, and Central America, and is also said to be an occasional visitant of Cuba and Jamaica.



*Parabuteo harrisi.*

Mr. Dresser found this Hawk common throughout Texas to the Colorado River, beyond which he noticed but few. It was the only Hawk he noticed at Matamoras in the summer. He describes it as a heavy, sluggish bird, seldom seen on the wing, and subsisting, so far as he could see, entirely on carrion. All along the road from Brownsville to San Antonio, he noticed it either perched on some tree by the roadside, or busy, in company with Vultures and Caracaras, regaling on some offensive carrion. He found it breeding in the neighborhood of San Antonio, Medina, and Altascosa Rivers, having eggs in the month of May. A nest found on the 4th of May, near the Medina River, was built of sticks, very slightly lined, and was placed in a low hackberry-tree. The eggs were four in number, and described as white, with a faint bluish tinge, very sparingly spotted and blotched with red.



Other writers also agree in representing this Hawk as heavy and sluggish in habit, and as frequenting streams of water, and its food as consisting chiefly of the reptiles and smaller animals which frequent the banks of rivers and creeks. It builds its nests on low trees, in the immediate vicinity of its hunting-ground, and often over the water, constructing them of coarse flags and water-plants. The nests are usually not very large for the birds, are flattened or with very slight depressions, and the materials are very loosely put together. The eggs are from three to five in number, usually white and unspotted, occasionally with more or less of a yellowish or tawny tinge. In some instances they are faintly marked with light dashes or stains of a yellowish-brown, and, more rarely, are also marked with small blotches of sepia-brown, and with smaller dottings of purplish-drab. Their average measurement is, length 2.13, breadth 1.69 inches.

Our knowledge of the eggs of these Hawks is derived from the collection of the late Dr. Berlandier, of Matamoras, in the Province of Tamaulipas, Mexico. In the cabinet of that gentleman were several varieties, now in the possession of the Smithsonian Institution, and presented to it by Lieutenant Couch.

GENUS **ONYCHOTES**, RIDGWAY.

*Onychotes*, RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Philad. Dec. 1870, 142. (Type, *O. gruberi*, nov. sp.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill short, the tip remarkably short and obtuse, and only gradually bent;



cere on top about equal to the culmen, very broad basally in its transverse diameter, and ascending, in its lateral outline, on a line with the culmen; commissure only faintly lobed.

Nostril nearly circular, with a conspicuous (but not central or bony) tubercle; cere densely bristled below the nostril, almost to its anterior edge; orbital region finely bristled. Tarsus very long and slender, nearly twice the length of the middle toe; toes moderate, the outer one decidedly longer than the inner; claws very long, strong, and sharp, and curved in about one quarter the circumference of a circle. Tibial feathers short and close, the plumes scarcely reaching below the joint. Feathers of the forehead, gular region, sides, and tibiæ, with white filamentous attachments to the end of the shafts. Wing very short, much rounded, and very concave beneath; fourth quill longest; first shorter than ninth; four primaries emarginated, and one sinuated, on inner webs; five sinuated on outer webs. Tail about two thirds as long as wing, rounded. Outstretched feet reaching beyond end of tail.

This genus has no very near relatives among the American *Falconidæ*, nor, indeed, among those of other portions of the world. It is, perhaps, most closely related to the genus *Rupornis*, of South America, from which, however, it is very distinct. It is represented by a single species, the type of which, supposed to have come from California, still remains unique.

The elongated legs, reaching considerably beyond the rather short tail, the close thigh-plumes, the long and extremely acute claws (somewhat like those of *Rostrhamus*), with the short, rounded, and very concave wing, are its most striking peculiarities. Besides these distinguishing features, the short, thick bill, very deep through the base, and the filamentous attachments to the shafts of the feathers of certain parts of the body, are also very characteristic. The latter feature may possibly be a mark of immaturity, but I have seen nothing like it in other *Raptores*, and it seems to be more analogous to the nuptial ornaments seen in the Cormorants (*Phalacrocoracidæ*).

#### Species.

**O. gruberi.** Wing, 10.10; tail, 6.50; culmen, about .80; tarsus, 2.70; middle toe, 1.45; posterior claw, 1.00, its digit .80. *Immature* (?). Uniform grayish-umber, tinged with dull rufous on the neck; lining of the wing and tibiæ dull grayish-cinnamon. Primaries inclining to black, and showing just discernible, obscure hoary bars on their basal half. Tail brownish-gray, with a hoary cast nearer the shaft (not paler at the tip), and crossed with nine or ten narrow bars of dusky, these becoming hardly distinguishable basally and terminally. Inner webs of the primaries plain white anterior to their emargination. Head laterally and beneath obsoletely streaked with whitish. *Hab.* "California."

**Onychotes gruberi, RIDGWAY.****GRUBER'S HAWK.**

*Onychotes gruberi*, RIDGWAY, PR. AC. NAT. SC. PHIL. DEC. 1870, p. 149.

SP. CHAR. *Immature* ♀ (41,703, "California"; F. Gruber). Outstretched feet reaching



*Onychotes gruberi.*

beyond tail. General plumage dull dark-bistre, with a grayish-umber cast in some lights, darkest on the head above and back; the posterior lower parts paler and more reddish; throat and neck much tinged with pale rusty (this obsoletely bordering the feathers, which here have fine whitish filaments attached to the shafts); primaries uniform black. Tail like the rump, but with a more hoary tinge (not paler at the tip), and crossed with seven or eight very narrow obscure bars of darker, the last of which is distant an inch or more from the end. Lining of wing dark bistre, much tinged with rusty, this prevalent toward the edge; under surface of primaries white anterior to their emargination, beyond which they are ashy, approaching black at ends; ashy portion with distant, very obsolete, dusky bars, but the cheeks and throat streaked obsoletely with this color. No distinct white anywhere about the head or neck. Wing, 10.00; tail, 5.80; tarsus, 2.70; middle toe, 1.40; inner, .90; outer, 1.10; posterior, .80; hind claw, 1.00 (chord); inner claw, .91; on front of tarsus, twelve exposed large transverse scutellæ; only 1.70 of the tarsus exposed.

The type of this species still remains unique. It was sent to the Smithsonian Institution by Mr. Gruber, who labelled it as having been obtained in California. Nothing is known of its habits.

**GENUS BUTEO, CUVIER.**

*Buteo*, CUV. 1799. (Type, *Falco buteo*, LINN. = *Buteo vulgaris*, BECHSTEIN.)

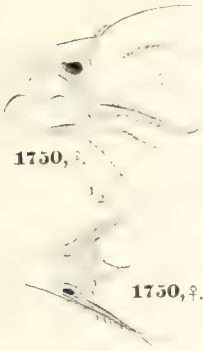
*Craxicor*, GOULD, 1838. (Type, *Buteo galapagoensis*, GOULD.)

*Pacillopternis*, KAUP, 1847. (Type, *Falco borealis*, GM.)

*Tachytrichis*, KAUP, 1844. (Type, *Falco pterocles*, TEMM.)

GEN. CHAR. Form robust and heavy, the wings long, and rather pointed, the tail moderate and rounded, the bill and feet strong. Bill intermediate between that of *Astur* and that of *Parabuteo*. Wing long and rather pointed, the third to fifth quill longest, the first shorter than eighth; three to four with inner webs emarginated. Tail moderate, slightly rounded.

The species of this genus are very numerous, especially within the tropics, and are found all over the world, except in Australia. About thirty nominal species are known, of which about fifteen distinct species, not



1750, ♀.



*Buteo zonocercus* (52763).



*Buteo borealis* (1750, 10571).



*Buteo swainsoni* (58505).

including geographical races, belong to America. A single species, *B. solitarius* (*Pandion solitarius*, Peale), (Gray's Hand List, I, 15, No. 136,) belongs to the Sandwich Islands. The genus seems to be wanting in the Australian and East Indian regions.

The following species and races belong to the North American fauna.



## Species and Races.

A. Three outer primaries with their outer webs cut or emarginated.

1. **B. pennsylvanicus.** Wing, 9.85–11.40; tail, 6.30–8.00; culmen, .70–.80; tarsus, 2.15–2.80; middle toe, 1.20–1.40. Third to fourth quill longest; first shorter than seventh. *Adult.* Tail dull black, paler at the tip, crossed by two to four bands of dilute umber, or brownish-white, varying in width, but the last always broadest. Upper tail-coverts tipped and barred with white. Lower parts dull rufous-brown, nearly unbroken on the breast, but posteriorly much variegated with roundish transverse spots of white, forming broad transverse bars, interrupted by the dusky shaft. Upper parts dark umber, darker on the back. *Young.* Tail dull grayish-umber, growing darker terminally, narrowly tipped with whitish, and crossed by about six narrow and indistinct bands of dusky; these gradually becoming obsolete basally, the last much broader. Lower parts white, or light ochraceous, with longitudinal spots of dark brown or blackish on the sides of the breast and abdomen, and roundish or transversely cordate ones on the sides, flanks, and tibiae. A conspicuous "mustache" on the cheeks, from the rictus down. Upper parts much as in the adult. *Hab.* Eastern North America, and Middle America, south to Bogota and Caraccas.

2. **B. swainsoni.** Wing, 12.00–17.00; tail, 6.50–9.00; culmen, .80–.95; tarsus, 2.95–2.70; middle toe, 1.50–1.70. Third to fourth (usually third) quills longest; first usually longer than seventh. *Adult.* Tail dark grayish-brown, sometimes with a hoary cast, crossed by five to seven, or more, narrow bands of dusky, usually very obscure, and becoming obsolete basally. Colors of other portions extremely variable; the upper parts, however, continuous, unvariegated, dark brown, or blackish; the lower parts sometimes also entirely dusky, except the tail-coverts, which are always (?) barred with white. *Normal plumage.* A dark area covering the jugulum and breast, dull rufous in the ♂, and dark grayish-brown in the ♀. Other lower parts whitish, sometimes pure, and nearly immaculate, but usually more or less tinged with ochraceous and rufous, and transversely barred with various shades of brown. *Young.* Tail hoary brownish-gray, crossed by numerous, very indistinct, narrow bands of darker, and faintly tipped with whitish. Ground-color of the head, neck, and lower parts, light ochraceous, or cream-color (sometimes nearly white), the anterior upper parts with large longitudinally ovate spots of black; these assuming the form of streaks on the head and neck. Sides of the breast with an aggregation of larger spots of the same, and sides with sparser hastate or deltoid spots. Upper parts purplish-black, more or less variegated with ochraceous; the relative proportion of the two colors varying with the individual.

Wing, 14.40–17.00; tail, 8.00–9.50; culmen, .80–.95; tarsus, 2.30–2.70; middle toe, 1.50–1.70. Weight  $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. *Hab.* Western Province of North America, from the Mississippi Valley, and the region of the Great Lakes (Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, to Arkansas, also Canada and Massachusetts) to the Pacific . . . . . var. *swainsoni*.

Wing, 12.00–15.30; tail, 6.50–9.00; culmen, .85–.90; tarsus, 1.95–2.60; middle toe, 1.50–1.60. Colors similar, but the young paler than that of var. *swainsoni*. Adult unknown. *Hab.* Middle and South America, and southern border of the western United States, from New Mexico to Buenos Ayres (two specimens, Costa Rica, and Buenos Ayres, Mus. S. I.) . . . . . var. *oxypterus*.

**B.** Four outer primaries with their inner webs cut.

*a.* Form light, the legs slender; tail of adult without a subterminal band of black more distinct than the others.

3. **B. zonocercus.** Wing, 15.50–17.40; tail, 8.50–10.75; culmen, .90; tarsus, 2.50–2.80; middle toe, 1.60–1.85. Entirely deep black, with more or less concealed pure white spotting. *Adult.* Tail carbonaceous-black, with three very broad zones, of pure white on inner webs and ash on the outer webs. *Young.* Tail dark brown, the inner webs more or less, sometimes entirely, white, crossed by numerous oblique bands of black. *Hab.* Mexico (chiefly western?) and adjacent southwestern portions of the United States (Arizona, Cores; Southern California, San Diego, COOPER).

4. **B. lineatus.** Wing, 11.25–14.25; tail, 8.00–10.00; culmen, .75–.90; tarsus, 2.70–3.25; middle toe, 1.30–1.50. Fourth to fifth quill longest; first shorter than seventh. Outer webs of the primaries with quadrate spots of whitish; lesser wing-coverts dark rufous; lower parts rufous more or less barred with whitish, or whitish spotted longitudinally with dusky. *Adult.* Head, neck, lesser wing-coverts, and lower parts deep rufous, the lower parts more or less barred posteriorly with whitish. Primaries and tail black; the former with quadrate spots of pure white on the outer webs, and the latter crossed by six narrow bands of pure white, and tipped with the same. *Young.* Head, neck, and lower parts whitish, usually more or less tinged with ochraceous, and with longitudinal markings of dusky. Primaries and tail dusky; the former mostly ochraceous anterior to the sinuation of their outer webs, the latter crossed by numerous narrow bands of pale grayish-brown, these becoming paler and more ochraceous toward the base. Lesser wing-coverts more or less tinged with dark rufous.

*Adult.* Lower parts light rufous barred with white. *Young.* White prevailing on the lower parts. *Hab.* Eastern Province of the United States . . . . . var. *lineatus*.

*Adult.* Lower parts deep dark rufous, almost free from bars, except posteriorly. *Young.* Dark spotting on the lower parts predominating. *Hab.* Pacific Province, and southern Western Province, of the United States . . . . . var. *elegans*.

*b.* Form robust and heavy, the tarsus stout; tail of the adult with a subterminal band of black broader than the other.

5. **B. borealis.** Wing, 13.25–17.75; tail, 8.50–11.30; culmen, .90–1.15; tarsus, 2.70–3.40; middle toe, 1.60–1.95. Weight, 2½ to 4 lbs. Third to fifth quill longest; first shorter than seventh and shorter than tenth. Colors extremely variable, ranging from entirely pure white beneath, through various shades of ochraceous and rusty, and greater or less amount of darker spots and bars, to an entirely uniform brownish-black. *Adult.* Tail deep rufous, generally paler at the tip; with or without black bars. *Young.* Tail grayish-brown, crossed by nine or ten bands of black, much narrower than the gray ones. Lower parts always with white predominating.

Tibiae and lower tail-coverts without transverse bars, at any age. Lower parts with white always predominating. Tail never with more than one bar of black.

Feathers of the head and neck edged laterally with rufous; scapulars and wing-coverts much variegated with whitish;

upper tail-coverts white, barred with rufous. Throat with blended streaks of blackish, this usually predominating; tibiae and lower tail-coverts plain yellowish-white. *Hab.* Eastern Province of North America, to the Missouri plains . var. *borealis*.

Similar, but colors much paler, the lower parts entirely pure white, with little or no spotting on the abdomen. Tail usually destitute of the black subterminal band. *Hab.* Plains, from Texas to Minnesota . . . . . var. *krideri*.

Similar to the last, but lower parts strongly tinged with rufous on the tibiae, and upper parts much darker. Tail always destitute of the subterminal black band. *Young* not distinguishable from that of var. *calurus*. *Hab.* Cape St. Lucas . . . . . var. *lucasanus*.

Whole head, neck (except the throat), and upper parts, continuously uniform unvariegated brownish-black; that of the neck meeting narrowly across the lower part of the throat, leaving the whole throat almost immaculate white. Posterior lower parts fine, deep pinkish-ochraceous; tibiae deep reddish-ochraceous; upper tail-coverts plain rufous. *Hab.* Central America (from Tres Marias, Western Mexico, to Costa Rica and Veragua) . . . . . var. *costaricensis*.

Tibiae and lower tail-coverts always with distinct transverse bars. Tail often with more or less complete transverse bars of black to the base. Lower parts with an excess of ochraceous and darker markings, frequently wholly blackish.

Varying, from individuals distinguishable from the darker examples of var. *borealis* only by the presence of bars on the tibiae and crissum, through others with various degrees of rufous tinge and dusky spotting and barring beneath, to a perfectly melanistic condition, in which the bird is almost uniformly black, and the tail with continuous, regular bars of black to the base. *Hab.* Western Province of North America, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific . . . var. *calurus*.

**6. *B. harlani*.** Wing, 15.00–16.20; tail, 8.80–10.50; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.75–2.90; middle toe, 1.50–1.70. Lateral toes nearly equal; tibial plumes much developed, reaching below the bases of the toes. Entirely brownish-black (except the tail), the concealed bases of the feathers snowy-white. *Adult.* Tail confusedly mottled with dusky and white, upon a grayish ground; sometimes more or less tinged with rufous. *Young.* Tail grayish-brown, with nine very regular, sharply defined bands of brownish-black, about equal in width to the gray ones. Lower parts wholly dusky. *Hab.* Southwestern United States, east of the Rocky Mountains, from Kansas to Texas.

**7. *B. cooperi*.** Wing, 15.75; tail, 9.10; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 3.25; middle toe, 1.70. *Adult.* Head, neck, and beneath, pure white, the head above and nape streaked with dusky; lining of the wing white, with a large black patch. Above nearly uniform dusky, the primaries plumbeous. Tail longitudinally mottled with light rufous, cinereous, and dusky; the former prevailing. *Hab.* Santa Clara County, California.

**Buteo pennsylvanicus (WILS.).****BROAD-WINGED HAWK.**

*Falco pennsylvanicus*, WILS. Am. Orn. VI, 92, pl. liv, f. 1, 1812. LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 263, 1821. — AUD. B. Am. pl. xci, 1831; Orn. Biog. I, 461, 1831. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 29, 434; Isis, p. 1137, 1832. — NUTT. Man. I, 105, 1833. — TEMM. Pl. Col. 67, 1836. *Buteo pennsylvanicus*, BONAP. Ois. Cuv. Règ. An. p. 35, 1830; Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 3, 1838; Consp. Av. p. 19, 1850. — AUD. Syn. p. 7, 1839. — BREW. (WILS). Am. Orn. Syn. p. 648, 1852. — GRAY, Gen. sp. 8, 1844; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 16, 1844. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. Syn. p. 100, 1854. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 32, 1855. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 11, pl. v, fig. 11, 1844. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 29, 1858. — GRAY, Hand List, B. 7, 1869. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 325 (Texas). *Astur pennsylvanicus*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 332, 1829. — JAMES. (WILS.) Orn. I, 65. *Falco latissimus*, WILS. Am. Orn. (last ed.) VI, 92, pl. liv, f. 1, 1812. *A. ? latissimus*, JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 294. *Falco wilsoni*, BONAP. Obs. Wils. Nouv. Journ. Ac. Sc. N. Y. III, 348. *Peciloternis wilsoni*, KAUP, Mon. Fal. Cont. Orn. p. 75, 1850. *Sparvius platypterus*, VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1273 (quot. Wils. pl. liv, fig. 1), 1823.

SP. CHAR. *Adult*. Upper surface dark umber-brown, the feathers gradually paler toward edges; on the back, the feathers more uniformly dusky, causing a prevalent blackish appearance. Rump and upper tail-coverts blackish vandyke-brown; the latter tipped with pure white, and with a concealed bar of same, about the middle of each feather. Tail dull black, with an obscure terminal band of dull brown, this fading terminally into whitish; across the middle of the tail a broad band of dull light umber (in some individuals approaching dull white) about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in width; about as far anterior to the main band as this is from the tip is another much narrower and more obscure band of the same color, crossing just beyond the ends of the coverts, or concealed by them. Primaries uniform brownish-black, fading on terminal edge into pale brown. Head above, and broad but inconspicuous "mustache," running from beneath the lore downward across the cheek, dull black; the crown posteriorly, with the occiput and nape, having the dull black much broken, caused by the lateral streaks of dull rufous on all the feathers; this dull rufous tint prevails on the rest of the head and neck, as well as the breast, leaving the lores and chin and lateral portion of frontlet alone whitish; throat streaked with blackish. Beneath dull brownish-rufous; that of the breast almost unvaried; medially, however, are roundish spots of white on opposite webs, but these are not confluent; posteriorly these spots become gradually more numerous and more transverse, forming on the flanks transverse bands, almost continuous; on the tibiae the white prevails, the rufous bars being more distant, and connected only by a brown shaft-line; lower tail-coverts less numerous, transverse spots of dull rufous. Lining of the wing ochraceous-white, with sparse, rather small, irregularly deltoid spots of dull rufous; under surface of the primaries unvaried white, as far as their emargination, beyond which they are black. Fourth quill longest; third a little shorter; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first about equal to the ninth. *Female* (extremes 30,969, Brookline, Mass., and 30,895, Mirador, Mexico; the latter the larger.) Wing, 11.00–11.30; tail, 6.80–7.10 tarsus, 2.30; middle toe, 1.30. *Male* (32,309, Moose Factory, Hudson's Bay Territory). Wing, 10.50; tail, 6.30; tarsus, 2.30; middle toe, 1.20.

*Young male*, second year? (39,106, Remedios, Cuba, June; N. H. Bishop). Upper parts similar to adult, but a reddish tint appreciably washing the edges of the interscapulars and (less noticeably so) the scapulars. Bands on tail nearly as in adult; but very near the base is a fourth, very narrow and faintly defined, pale band, while the bases of all the feathers are much mottled with white. Dull rufous of the breast not continuous, but in



the form of large longitudinal broad spots, occupying the greater middle portion of each feather; abdomen, sides, and tibiae with smaller and more cordate spots of dull rufous; the lower tail-coverts immaculate; the decided ochraceous tinge beneath, deepest posteriorly.

*Young*, first year (11,984, Washington, D. C.). The blackish above is much variegated, being broken by the narrow rusty borders to interscapulars, rump, and lesser wing-coverts; the broader and more ochraceous borders to scapulars and greater wing-coverts, and partially concealed whitish spotting on the former. Upper tail-coverts white, with broad bars of blackish-brown; secondaries and primaries edged terminally with whitish. Tail dull umber-brown, growing darker terminally; narrowly tipped with white, and crossed with six obscure, narrow bands of dusky, the (concealed) bases of all the feathers white. Superciliary region, cheeks, chin, throat, and entire lower parts, delicate pale ochraceous, or whitish cream-color; a conspicuous "mustache," a medial longitudinal series of streaks on the throat, with large longitudinal ovate spots on sides of breast, cordate spots on sides and flanks, and sagittate spots on tibiae, clear blackish-brown. The ochraceous deepest on the abdomen and crissum. Wing beneath as in adult.

A very young bird, scarcely fledged (33,598, Milltown, Me.; G. A. Boardman), differs from the last in a much more continuous black shade above, the deeper ochraceous beneath, and larger, as well as more numerous, blackish spots beneath.

In the adult plumage of this species, the principal variation is in the continuity or distinctness of the anterior light band on the tail, and the extent and depth of shade of the brown beneath. The first feature is characteristic of most specimens, only one (55,980, ♂, Costa Rica) being without it; it is broadest and most conspicuous, as well as less concealed by the coverts, in the females, and this appears to be the principal sexual difference. The dull brownish-rufous of the under parts is most prevalent in a specimen from Mirador, Mexico (30,895, ♀ ? September; Dr. Sartorius), in which specimen the breast is almost continuously of this color, and the lower tail-coverts are strongly barred (or transversely spotted) with the same; the ground-color beneath is also more ochraceous than in any other individual. In the Costa-Rican specimen (the one lacking the anterior tail-band), the brown beneath is quite different from that of the others, being of a much more ashy shade; the lower tail-coverts are also immaculate. The brown markings beneath are most sparse in 20,389, from Coban, Vera Paz (January; O. Salvin); in this, also, the tail-bands are very distinct, and almost white.

A young bird from Costa Rica (30,412; Dr. Frantzius) is exactly similar to No. 27,048, from Fort Garry, Selkirk Settlement.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 18; Philadelphia Academy, 6; Boston Society, 3; New York Museum, 2 (Caraccas); Museum, Cambridge, 2; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 5; Coll. R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 38.

#### Measurements.

	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	9.85 - 10.70	6.50 - 7.00	.70 - .	2.15 - 2.80	1.20 - 1.38	11
♀	11.00 - 11.40	7.00 - 8.00	.70 - .78	2.20 - 2.70	1.30 - 1.40	14

HAB. Eastern North America southward along Gulf coast through Louisiana, into Mexico and Central America; Cuba, Ecuador, Upper Amazon, Caraccas (N. Y. Museum).

Localities: Ecuador, winter (SCL. 1858, 451); Orizaba (SCL. 1857, 211); Upper Amazon (SCL. 1857, 261); Cuba (CAB. Journ. II, lxxxii; GUNDLACH, Rept. 1865, 223; resident); Panama (LAWR. VII, 1861, 288); S. E. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 325; breeds); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 133).

**HABITS.** The Broad-winged Hawk appears to be distributed over eastern North America, somewhat irregularly, as far north as the British Provinces, and as far west at least as the Mississippi. It has been found in Florida by Mr. Wurdemann, where it was said to be not uncommon. It is a resident in Cuba, where it breeds; but it has not been taken in Jamaica. It has also been detected in Guatemala by Mr. Skinner. Audubon states that he never met with it in Louisiana, but Mr. Dresser found it not uncommon from the Nueces eastward. In September he noticed several near the Mission of San Patricio, and during the winter obtained several specimens near San Antonio. In May he shot a young bird on the Medina River, and early in June he found a nest containing young on the Colorado. It was on a high cottonwood-tree, and in an almost inaccessible position.



*Buteo pennsylvanicus.*

It is not mentioned by Mr. Downes as occurring in Nova Scotia, though I think it quite probable it may be found there; but it is quite common near Calais, both in Eastern Maine and in New Brunswick. Professor Verrill gives it as a common summer visitant in Oxford County, Me., near Norway, and as still more abundant near the Umbagog Lakes, and apparently the most common Hawk in that vicinity. He found its nest, June 12, containing two eggs nearly hatched. It is to be met with throughout Massachusetts, having been found breeding near Williamstown, Springfield, and also in the vicinity of Boston. Its nest was also met with in Middlebury, Vt., by the late Professor Adams. Mr. McIlwraith, of Hamilton, Canada, has noted extensive migrations of this Hawk in March of different years, as many as twenty or thirty being in view at one time, passing at a considerable height, and moving in circles towards the northwest. Others, that appeared to be stragglers from the main body, were met with in the woods. Dr. Hoy states it to be rather common near Racine, and Mr. Kumlien has obtained it in the vicinity of Lake Koskonong. From all these data it may naturally be inferred that this Hawk has a pretty general distribution from Florida to Texas, and from New Brunswick to the Mississippi Valley, probably extending northward into the Saskatchewan Valley and south-westerly to Central America.

The Broad-winged Hawk was first described by Wilson, who shot a single

specimen that had been feeding on a meadow-mouse. On his approach it uttered a whining whistle and flew to another tree. Another of the same species was observed, and its movements were in wide circles, with unmoving wings. Nuttall never met with it, and regarded it as very rare.

Audubon characterizes this Hawk as spiritless, inactive, and deficient in courage, seldom chasing other birds of prey, but itself frequently annoyed by the little Sparrow-Hawk, the Kingbird, and the Martin. It only attacks birds of a weak nature, young chickens, and ducklings, and feeds on small animals and insects. It is usually found singly, is easily approached, and when wounded throws itself on its back, erects its top feathers, utters a hissing sound, and attempts to defend itself with its talons.

A nest of this bird, found by Mr. Audubon, is said to have been about the size of that of the Crow, and to have been placed in the larger branches of a tree, near the trunk. It was composed externally of dry sticks and briers; internally, of small roots, and lined with numerous large feathers. The nest found by Professor Adams, near Middlebury, Vt., was quite large, and was coarsely constructed of sticks, and lined only with fibrous roots and fine grass. In this instance the eggs were three. This is the more usual number, though occasionally four or five are found.

Mr. Boardman informs me that Mr. Audubon's account of the spiritless manner in which one of these Hawks suffered him to capture it on its nest does not at all correspond with his own experience. He has, on the contrary, found it one of the most courageous and spirited of its family. On one occasion, when a man employed by him was ascending to a nest, a parent bird assailed the disturber with great fury, tore his cap from his head, and would have done the man serious injury had it not been shot. In another instance one of these birds attacked a boy climbing to its nest, and fastened its talons in his arm, and could not be removed until it was beaten off and killed with a club.

The eggs of this Hawk have an average length of 2.09 inches, and an average breadth of 1.61. The smallest egg measures 1.94 by 1.50 inches, and the largest 2.11 by 1.72 inches, showing considerable variation in their relative capacity, but not so much as is found among the eggs of other species. In shape, the eggs are of a slightly rounded oval, one end a little less obtuse than the other. The ground-color is of a grayish or dirty white, occasionally with a slightly silvery shading. These are marked, usually over the entire egg, in irregular distribution, with varying shades of brown. The more common is a light tawny or reddish-brown. Intermingled with these blotches are often found a peculiar faint purplish-brown, dull shading of a light yellowish-brown, and a deep rich shade of purplish-brown, approaching occasionally almost in intensity to black. These may occur separately, or they may all be found blended in the same egg. The size, shape, and peculiar coloring of the eggs of this Hawk make them readily recognizable, though not readily permitting a satisfactory description.

A nest of this Hawk, taken by Mr. J. P. Ritchie, May 18, 1863, — the parent female of which was secured also, — is described as having been made of large sticks, very loosely put together, lined with a few pieces of bark. It was placed in the crotch of a tree, close to the trunk, and twenty feet from the ground, and contained two eggs.

### **Buteo swainsoni, BONAP.**

Var. *swainsoni*, BONAP.

#### **SWAINSON'S HAWK; BAIRD'S HAWK.**

*Buteo swainsoni*, BONAP. Comp. List, p. 3, 1838; Consp. Av. p. 19, 1850; Proc. Ac. N. S. Phil. p. 280, 1855; Birds N. Am. 19, 1858. — HELLM. P. R. R. Rep't, II, 32, 1855. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 30, 1855. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 324 (Texas). — GAMB. Journ. Ac. N. S. Phil. n. s. I, 27. — COUES, Prod. B. Ariz. 9, 1866. — BLAKIST. Ibis, III, 1861, 317 (fresh eggs). — GRAY, Hand List, I, 7, 1869. *Falco buteo*, PENN. Arct. Zool. II, 207, sp. 103 (♀ Juv.), 1785. — AUD. B. Am. pl. cccclxxii, 1831; Orn. Biog. IV, 508, 1831. *Falco obsoletus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 268, 1789. — KERR, Trans. Gmel. II, 501, 1792. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 28, sp. 61, 1790; Synop. Supp. I, p. 30; Gen. Hist. I, p. 254, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 104, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 152, 1812. *Buteo cinereus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. 1807. *Buteo vulgaris*, RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. Am. p. 5, 1831. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 56, 1808. — BREW. (WILS.) Am. Orn. p. 303; Synop. p. 684, 1852. *Buteo montanus*, NUTT. Man. Orn. U. S. & Canad. I, 112, 1833. *Buteo bairdi*, HOY, Proc. Ac. Sc. Phil. VI, 451, 1853. — CASSIN, B. of Cal. & Tex. pl. xli, 1854; Birds N. Am. 21, 1858. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 37, 1855. *Buteo insignatus*, CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. p. 102, pl. xxxi, 1854; Birds N. Am. 23, 1858. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rep't, VII, 31, 1857. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 38, 1855. — COUES, Prod. B. Ariz. 9, 1866. — BRYANT, Proc. Bost. Soc. X, 1865, 90 (= *swainsoni*). ? *Buteo gutturalis*, MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 17 (and eggs).

**SP. CHAR.** Form robust and strong, like *B. borealis*; wings long and pointed; only three outer primaries with their inner webs cut. Feet robust, the tarsi strong. Dimensions: Wing, 14.40–17.00; tail, 8.00–9.50; culmen, .80–.95; tarsus, 2.30–2.70; middle toe, 1.50–1.70. Weight, 1½–3½ lbs. Colors: Tail dark grayish-brown with a hoary cast, crossed by numerous obscure narrow bands of a darker shade. *Adult*, uniform blackish-brown above; upper tail-coverts barred with white. Throat and lower parts posterior to the breast white or pale ochraceous; a broad patch across the breast uniform brown, — reddish-rufous in the male, and grayish-umber in the female, — the whole lower surface varying to entirely uniform dull brownish-black, though intermediate shades. *Young*, with the ground-color of the plumage soft ochraceous, or cream-color; the head, neck, dorsal region, and sides of the breast, with tear-shaped spots of brownish-black, with a faint purple reflection. Upper parts purplish-black, variegated with ochraceous, sometimes almost wholly black. Tail as in the adult, but more hoary.

#### *a. Normal plumage.*

*Adult male* (53,105, Truckee River, Nevada, July; C. King, R. Ridgway). Head, neck, and upper parts blackish-brown; scapulars slightly variegated with a rufous mottling; upper tail-coverts white tinged with rufous, and with transverse bars of blackish-brown, about six on each feather. Tail dark brown like the back, approaching black terminally, basally with a slight hoary cast; crossed by about ten narrow, very obscure bands of nearly black. Front and whole throat clear white, immaculate, and



sharply defined against the surrounding blackish; lores dusky. Whole breast, cinnamon-rufous (forming a wide, sharply defined band), marked laterally with the brown of the neck; each feather with a shaft-line of black; rest of lower parts, including whole lining of the wing, continuous ochraceous white, the latter region unvariegated; sides with sparse, faint, transverse bars of rufous, and shaft-lines of darker. Under side of primaries light slate anterior to emargination, beyond which they are black; slaty portion crossed by very obscure bars of darker. Fourth quill longest, third scarcely shorter; second equal to fifth; first intermediate between seventh and eighth. Length, 19.75; extent, 48.00; wing, 15.40; tail, 8.00; tarsus, 2.32; middle toe, 1.60. (Weight  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.) Bill slate-black, bluish basally; cere, and angle of mouth, light dull lemon yellow; iris deep hazel; tarsi and toes deep chrome yellow, claws black.



*Buteo swainsoni* (Nevada)

*Adult female* (58,507, Great Salt Lake City, Utah, May; C. King, R. Ridgway). Similar to the male, but pectoral area blackish-brown, like the back; blackish-brown of upper surface untinged with rufous, all the feathers, however, fading on edges; bands of the tail scarcely distinguishable on outer webs; white of forehead very restricted; lining of the wing barred with small cordate or deltoid spots of black; under surface of primaries plain deep slate. Abdomen and sides variegated with a few irregular longitudinal spots, and on the latter, transverse bars of dark brown; tibiae with faint bars of rufous. Fourth quill longest; third scarcely shorter; second very slightly shorter than fifth; first intermediate between seventh and eighth. Length, 21.50; extent, 54.00; wing, 16.50; tail, 8.50; tarsus, 2.70; middle toe, 1.70. (Weight,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.)

*Young* (10,761, Rocky Mountains, September; C. Drexler). Head, neck, and entire lower parts fine delicate light ochraceous, or cream-color; feathers of the crown, occiput, and neck, each with a medial stripe of black, of less amount, however, than the ochraceous; forehead, supraoral region, and ear-coverts, with only a few very fine hair-like shaft-streaks; on the chin, and across the cheeks, are longitudinal spaces of blended streaks of black, the latter forming a conspicuous "mustache"; sides of the breast with large ovate spots of black; middle of the breast with less numerous, smaller, and more longitudinal ones of the same; sides, flanks, and abdomen, with broad hastate spots, more irregular and transverse on the former; throat, tibiae, anal region, and lower tail-coverts immaculate. Upper surface generally, deep black; feathers bordered with pale ochraceous, the scapulars and middle wing-coverts much variegated with the same. Secondary coverts, secondaries, and primaries narrowly tipped with white. Upper tail-coverts pale ochraceous, barred with black. Tail ashy-brown, very much lighter than the rump (more hoary than in the adult), narrowly, but clearly, tipped with white, and crossed by ten or twelve narrow bands of black, more distinct than in the adult. Under surface of primaries more whitish than in the adult.

(*b. Melanistic condition*; = *B. insignatus* of Cassin.)

*Adult male* (22,567, Onion River; R. McFarlane). Entirely brownish black, whole under surface of wings included; lower tail-coverts equally barred with white and black. Tail

blackish slate, narrowly barred at the tip and crossed with numerous oblique bars of dusky black; upper tail-coverts barred obsoletely with lighter slaty-brown. Wing, 15.00; tail, 8.00; tarsus, 2.20; middle toe, 1.50. Fourth quill longest; third, next; second, shorter than fifth; first, slightly shorter than eighth.

*Adult female* (12,927, Utah Valley, July; C. S. McCarthy). Similar; lower tail-coverts white, tinged with rusty, and barred with brown; tibiæ tinged with chestnut. Wing, 16.50; tail, 8.80; tarsus, 2.60; middle toe, 1.65. Third and fourth quills equal and longest; third shorter than fifth; first equal to eighth.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 27; Philadelphia Academy, 2; Boston Society, 1; Museum, Cambridge, 1; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 2; W. Brewster, 1; R. Ridgway, 5. Total, 39.

*Meuscheni*.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	14.40 - 15.25	8.25 - 9.00	.80 - .90	2.30 - 2.65	1.50 - 1.60	11
♀	14.75 - 16.50	9.00 -	.80 - .95	2.50 - 2.70	1.55 - 1.65	11

HAB. Western regions of North America, east to the Mississippi Valley, north to the Arctic regions; Wisconsin; Arkansas; Canada; Massachusetts.

Localities: S. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 324); Arizona (COTES?); Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I, 216, "*insignatus*").

The young plumage described above is the *Buteo bairdi*, Hoy, of authors. The melanistic plumage is *B. insignatus*, Cassin.

The young birds of this species are as variable as the adults; thus, No. 53,210, ♂, has the fine ochraceous of the lower parts entirely free from spots, except across the breast; on the upper parts the ochraceous spotting is so extended as to almost prevail, while another, from the same nest, has the black beneath exceeding the ochraceous, the tibiæ being thickly spotted, and the lower tail-coverts barred. Both these specimens belong to a brood of four, which were hardly able to fly, and were shot, with their parents, the male of which is the one described, while the female (No. 53,206) is a very dark example of *insignatus*, Cassin.

The type of *bairdi*, and another Wisconsin specimen, are in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy. In plumage, they are unlike any others I have seen, though there is as little resemblance between these two as between any I have compared. Dr. Hoy's type (Racine, Wisc., January, 1854) differs from others, in exceedingly pale colors; the cream-color beneath is scarcely spotted, there being only a few triangular spots and shaft-lines of black on the sides; the lining of the wing is entirely immaculate. Above, the black is unusually continuous; the under surface of the primaries is unusually white. Wing, 15.00; tail, 8.00.

The other specimen (Menomonee Marsh, Milwaukee, Wisc., spring of 1851) is just the opposite extreme in plumage, being unusually dark, for a young bird. Beneath, the black spots are so large as to nearly cover the whole surface, while the continuity of the black of the upper part is almost unbroken. The head above, and nape, and broad "mustache" stripe from

angle of mouth down to the jugulum, with nearly the whole pectoral area, unbroken black, leaving the gular region and side of the head pale, but thickly streaked. Wing, 15.00; tail, 8.80; tarsus, 2.35; middle toe, 1.50. These specimens may be said to form about the extremes of the young plumage. An Iowa skin (No. 59,052; Ricksecker) is like the average of far-western examples.

The melanistic condition bears to the normal plumage of *swainsoni* precisely the same relation that the black *calurus*, Cassin, does to the usual style of the western variety of *borealis* (*borealis* var. *calurus* = *montanus*, Cassin); the variable series, connecting these two extremes, and designated by the name *borealis* var. *calurus*, which covers the whole, finds an exact parallel in the present species.

A specimen from the Platte (5,576, ♂, August; W. S. Wood) is entirely dark rufous-brown beneath (excepting the lower tail-coverts), with the shafts of the feathers black.

This species is entirely distinct specifically from the *B. vulgaris* of Europe. The latter has four, instead of only three, outer primaries deeply emarginated, and is very dissimilar in every stage of plumage.

Var. *oxypterus*, CASSIN.

#### SHARP-WINGED HAWK.

(Normal *adult* plumage.)

*Buteo oxypterus*, CASS. P. A. N. S. VII, 1855, 282. — IB. Birds N. Am. 1858, 30. — STRICKL. OMB. SYN. I, 1855, 28. — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 9. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 8. — COOPER, Birds Cal. 1870, 480. *Buteo albicaudatus*, "VIEILL.," SCLATER, P. Z. S. 1869, 634, No. 22.

(*Melanistic* plumage.)

*Buteo fuliginosus*, SCLATER, P. Z. S. Lond. 1858, 356. — IB. Trans. Z. S., July, 1858, 267, pl. lxii. — RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Dec. 1870, 142.

SP. CHAR. *Adult; melanistic plumage* (No. 12,117, Mazatlan, Mexico; Colonel Abert). Entirely fuliginous-black, darkest on head and back; no white on forehead. Tail cinereous-umber, crossed with seven very regular and continuous bands of black, the subterminal one of which is broadest. Lower tail-coverts, and larger under wing-coverts, with transverse bands of dull white; lining of the wing unvaried black; under surface of primaries silvery-white, that portion beyond their emargination black, the whitish portion crossed by distant, very obsolete, transverse bars. Third quill longest; fourth and fifth scarcely shorter, and nearly equal; second equal to sixth; first shorter than eighth. Tail square; scutellæ of the tarsus very faintly defined, or, in fact, scarcely detectable (probably accidental). Wing, 13.00; tail, 7.00; tarsus, 1.95; middle toe, 1.55.

*Young male; normal plumage* (No. 8,550, Fort Fillmore, New Mexico; Dr. T. C. Henry, U. S. A.). Head, neck, and lower parts, soiled ochraceous-white. Feathers of the head above, and neck laterally and behind, with medial stripes of blackish-brown; jugulum, breast, sides, flanks, and abdomen, with large rounded spots of blackish-brown; tibiae with transverse bars of the same; lower tail-coverts almost immaculate. A conspicuous "mustache" of blended dusky streaks, from angle of the mouth across the cheeks,

the dusky suffusing the face. Whole oral region scarcely variegated pale yellowish; whole chin and throat immaculate.

Prevailing tint above, blackish-brown, becoming purplish-black on primaries; whole outer surface of wing plain, but interscapular region somewhat variegated with partially concealed, irregular blotches of deeper ochraceous than the lower parts; upper tail-coverts with pairs of indistinct white spots. Tail grayish-brown (white at extreme base), crossed with about ten narrow, indistinct, but regular bands of dusky. Lining of the wings yellowish-white, with sparse cordate spots of blackish, this tint prevailing over the under primary coverts; under surface of the primaries pure purplish-black after their emargination, but anteriorly plain hoary brown, growing paler basally. On inner webs



*Euteo erythronus* (Mazatlan).

are very indistinct transverse spots of dusky, touching neither the edge nor shaft of the feather, and entirely concealed when the wing is closed. Shafts of primaries pure white on under side; on outer, dark brown. Wing-formula, 3-4-2-5-6-7-1, 8. Three outer primaries emarginated on inner webs; second, third, and fourth, sinuated on outer. Wing, 13.70; tail, 7.00; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 1.35. Primaries project beyond secondaries, 5.50. (Cassin's type.)

*Young female* (33,508, San José, Costa Rica; J. Carmiol). Differs from the type chiefly in lighter colors. The whole forehead very broadly immaculate dull white, this continuing back to the occiput in a broad unstreaked superciliary stripe; along the upper edge of the ear-coverts is a rusty suffusion, with condensed, fine dusky streaks, forming an indistinct stripe separating the wholly white ear-coverts from the supraoral stripe; the "mustache" is very conspicuous; the breast has a few large tear-shaped spots of clear blackish-brown, and the sides have very sparse, irregular, and more sagittate spots of the same; the whole posterior parts are immaculate. The upper parts are more variegated with paler, the wing-coverts and rump having the feathers irregularly bordered with whitish. The upper tail-coverts are white, barred with dark brown. Tail, hoary brown, crossed by nine or ten nearly obsolete, narrow bands of dusky. Whole lining of the wings immaculate, except the conspicuous patch on the primary coverts. The whole under surface of the primaries is uniform slaty, gradually deepening into black towards ends. Wing-formula, 3-4-2-5-6-7, 1. Wing, 15.00; tail, 8.00; tarsus, 2.45; middle toe, 1.55. Primaries project beyond secondaries, 6.00.

HAB. Tropical America, from the southern border of the United States to Buenos Ayres.

The melanistic specimen described above agrees perfectly with Mr. Sclater's excellent figure of his *B. fuliginosus* above cited, and the only discrepancy in the description is in the measurements,—those given for the *B. fuliginosus* being, wing 12.00, tail 6.50, and tarsus 2.60. This difference—certainly not great—very likely indicates the proportions of the sexes, while the discrepancy as regards the length of the tarsus, it is probable, results from a different mode of measurement.



The present form is very nearly related to the true *B. swainsoni*, and, though distinguishable, we find it difficult to express points of absolute difference. The essential distinctions, however, are the longer primaries and lighter colors of the present bird, there being in the immature plumage of *oxypterus* no approach to the deep, fine ochraceous, the characteristic and prevalent tint of the young *B. swainsoni*. The spots beneath are more sparse, and there does not appear to be that tendency to their aggregation on the sides of the breast as generally seen in *swainsoni*.

Both agree, however, — and differ from all other species, — in the unbarred slate-color of the under surface of primaries, the plain black of the outer surface, conspicuous "mustache," obscurely barred gray tail, etc. In fact, the general pattern is almost exactly the same, while there is little difference in relative proportions.

In view of the very appreciable, though rather indefinite, differences above indicated, and the obscure history of the present bird, we prefer, at least until more familiar with its different stages, to recognize it under the above name.

A third specimen, from Buenos Ayres (Conchitas; William H. Hudson), — exactly similar, in all particulars, to the two specimens described, — was labelled by Mr. Selater, *B. albicaudatus*, Vieill., which is usually placed as a synonyme under *B. pterocles*, an exclusively South American species; though belonging strictly to the same section of the genus with the present bird and *B. swainsoni*, it is quite distinct, the Smithsonian Collection containing numerous examples illustrating the several stages of plumage.

**HABITS.** Taking the two varieties together, this species appears to range over the entire continent of America, from the Arctic regions to the cold-temperate portion of South America. In Arctic America it appears to have a western distribution, though extending far to the north during the breeding-season, and being more or less nomadic during the winter. A single well-marked specimen was taken by Mr. Brewster, in the winter of 1871–72, in the eastern part of Massachusetts. It was first noticed by Dr. Richardson, and was by him supposed to be identical with the common Buzzard of Europe. It was met with in the fur country, where it was migratory, arriving there early in April, and departing again about the end of September. It frequented the low alluvial points of land which stretch out under the high banks of rivers, where it might be observed sitting for a long while motionless on the bough of a tree, waiting patiently for some small birds or quadrupeds to pass within its reach. As soon as it perceived anything of the kind, it would glide silently into the air and sweep easily but rapidly down upon its prey. One of Dr. Richardson's specimens was found to have two whole toads in its stomach.

Dr. Richardson states that this Buzzard builds its nest on a tree, of short sticks, lining it sparingly with deer's hair. The eggs, from three to five in number, are described as equalling in size those of the domestic fowl, and

as having a greenish-white color, with a few large dark brown blotches at the larger end. It was seen by the doctor as far to the north as the 57th parallel.

Mr. Audubon's drawing and description of this bird were taken from a specimen obtained by Dr. Townsend from the Columbia River. A number of specimens have been obtained by the various government exploring expeditions. A single specimen was taken by Mr. Dresser near San Antonio, in Texas.

Captain Blakiston (Ibis, 1861, p. 317) obtained several specimens of this Buzzard at the forks of the Saskatchewan River, in the stomach of one of which he found three toads. He states that it was quite abundant in that neighborhood. He adds that Mr. Bourgeau procured several specimens of the eggs, identified by also obtaining the parents. These eggs are said to have been white, more or less blotched with red. Mr. Bernard Ross also obtained this bird on the Mackenzie River, where it was rare.



*Buteo swainsoni* (adult)

This Hawk was observed by Mr. Dall, in Alaska, a skin having been obtained at Koyukuk, May 26, from an Indian. Mr. Dall states that it prefers the thickets and woody places, is not so often seen as some of the other species. It generally builds a very large nest of sticks, and begins to lay about the last of April. The young are hatched out about the 30th of May. It was only a summer visitor. He found not only the bones of rabbits, squirrels, and mice about its nest, but also those of ducks, and in one instance part of a white-fish.

Dr. Heermann obtained an egg of this species in Northern California, which had a yellowish-white ground-color, marked with obscure cloudings of a purplish-gray, and irregular patches of a light tone of umber brown. It measured 2.31 inches in length, and 1.84 in breadth.

We are indebted to Dr. W. J. Hoffmann for the following interesting note in relation to the nesting of this species: "On the 28th of May, 1871, we encamped on Antelope Creek, forty miles north of the Central Pacific Railroad Station, Argenta, Nevada. The stream of water, which is small, is fringed with willows, averaging about twelve feet in height. Strolling along the underbrush, I came to the nest of the *Buteo swainsoni*, which was built on

the top of a willow, and in its construction took in several distinct limbs, so as to give better support. The nest, about two feet across and one foot in thickness, was constructed of thin sticks and fragments of roots. The inside was lined with leaves of tule and grass. The nest contained two eggs. Only eight feet from this nest, on the same bush, and at the same height, a female of *Icterus bullocki* was on her nest. These birds appeared to be living together in harmony, having been in constant sight of each other for several weeks, as the condition of the eggs proved. I deem this remarkable only as showing a rapacious and an insectivorous bird living so closely together that one might at any time have been made the prey of the other by a single spread of the wings."

Dr. Gideon Lincecum, of Washington County, Texas, speaks of this species as one of the common Hawks of the Texan prairies. He states that it



*Buteo swainsoni* (young)

nests on the ground in the prairie; lays six eggs, sometimes on tall trees, — when it chooses to rear its young in the forest. It is apt to pounce on a brood of young poultry when it sees them, but being rather timid does not like to go about the houses. Its principal food is grasshoppers, prairie rats and mice, and small birds. Dr. Lincecum has often seen it when the grass on the prairie was burning, in the spring of the year, constantly on the wing, in front of the fire, catching the grasshoppers, rats, mice, and any small game that is driven out of the grass by the crackling fire; and it will keep in the smoke so close to the fire that it soon becomes almost as black as soot. He further remarks that, "when any one approaches their nest on the prairie, they will make a pretty bold attempt to frighten or decoy him away from it. It first tries to lead the intruder off, by alighting in the

grass near by, and screeching loudly as if something was greatly the matter; you approach him, and with much seeming difficulty it make out to move off a little farther, still screeching louder than before, and this piece of deception it will repeat time after time, improving a little in its powers of locomotion as it gets you farther from the nest, until it judges it is far enough, — that you have lost the place in the unmarked sea of grass, — when it seems to fly as well as ever; it circles round once or twice, going still farther off, and settles silently down in the deep grass. This last performance is to induce the belief that it has returned to the nest. But if you refuse to be led astray by these manœuvres, and remain about its nest, it will make a good fight. One came very near knocking off my hat one day when I did not know I was intruding on its premises.”

The *Buteo bairdi* of Hoy is now ascertained to be only an immature form. It was first met with in Wisconsin, and since then has been taken in various western localities.

A pair of these birds was found by Mr. Ricksecker, breeding in this plumage, in Utah. The nest was built in a young aspen-tree. The egg is marked with larger and more deeply marked blotches than usual, and is nearly of an exact oval shape, measuring 2.30 inches in length by 1.75 in breadth. The ground-color is white, with a slight tinge of rufous, over which are diffused, over the whole surface, fine markings of a reddish, rust-tinged brown. Besides these the larger end, and some other portions of the surface, are boldly dashed with large blotches of the same color, but of a deeper shade.

A black Buzzard, originally described as *Buteo insignatus*, is now known to be only an individual melanistic condition of the species. It was first met with in the vicinity of Montreal, and the specimen belonging to the Natural History Society of that city was described as new by Mr. John Cassin. A similar specimen was taken by Mr. Macfarlane at Fort Anderson, where it was breeding. It was met with rather abundantly by Dr. Heermann on the San Joaquin River, in California, and seen along his route for a considerable distance. He described it as sluggish in its habits, perching for hours in a quiescent state on some tall tree, and permitting the hunter to approach without showing any signs of fear.



*Buteo swainsoni*, var. *cryptus* young



Dr. Cooper found this bird pretty common in the vicinity of San Diego, in March, 1862, when they were apparently migrating northward. In their habits they appeared to resemble the larger varieties of Buzzards. Mr. Salvin obtained a single specimen of a Hawk at Duenas, which is referred by Mr. Gurney to this variety (Ibis, I, 216).

The variety *oxypterus*, of this species, was first described from an immature specimen obtained at Fort Fillmore, New Mexico. It ranges southward throughout tropical America to Buenos Ayres.

## **Buteo zonocercus**, SCLATER. *altiv*

### **BAND-TAIL HAWK.**

'' *Buteo allanodotus*, G. R. GRAY, Isis, 1847, p. 329. *Buteo zonocercus*, SCLATER, TRANS. ZOÖL. SOC. LOND. IV, pt. vi, 263, 1858. — COUES, PR. A. N. S. 1866, 46. — ELLIOT, BIRDS N. A. pl. xxxiii. — GRAY, HAND LIST I, 8, 1869. — COOPER, BIRDS CAL. 1870, 479.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (36,872, Hassayampa River, Arizona Territory, August; Dr. Coues). Entirely carbonaceous black; forehead pure white, and feathers of occiput, neck, and breast the same beneath the surface; this on under parts, showing as transverse, ovate spots on



webs of feathers, partially exposed. Tail black, faintly tipped with pale ashy, crossed (about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches from the end) by a band of hoary plumbeous, nearly an inch in width; about half an inch anterior to this is another plumbeous band, about as broad as the black one which separates it from the last; and about the same distance, near the base, is another, much narrower, and less continuous ashy band. The outlines of these bands are rather irregular; and on the inner webs the plumbeous is replaced by snowy white, which, not exactly corresponding to the plumbeous of outer webs, is rather more extended, as well as more sharply defined, forming three very conspicuous transverse zones (decreasing in width towards the base like those on outer webs), observable only when the tail is spread, or from below. On the two middle feathers both webs are plumbeous and black; and on the lateral feathers, the white prevails on the inner web, the black bands being broken up into narrow zigzags. Primaries less intensely black than the back, and showing obscure transverse bands of deeper black; lining of the wing unvariegated black; under surface of primaries pale plumbeous, passing into hoary white on edges, and crossed from base to ends with very irregular, transverse bars of blackish, these breaking up into a mottling, or blended speckling, along the edges of the feathers. Owing to moulting stage,

the wing-formula cannot be ascertained. Wing, 15.50; tail, 8.50; tarsus, 2.50; middle toe, 1.60. Length, 19½; extent, 47½.

*Young male* (52,763, Mazatlan, Mex.; Colonel A. J. Grayson). General coloration like the preceding; feathers of neck, back, and under parts more conspicuously spotted with white beneath the surface, these spots considerably exposed on the breast and upper tail-coverts. Tail deep dark vandyke-brown, faintly tipped with paler, and crossed with numerous narrow oblique bands of black; subterminal one broadest, being about three-fourths of an inch in width; the next one is not a fourth as wide, and crosses about an inch anterior to the last; the distance between the black bands diminishes towards the base of the tail, so that after the seventh of these, no more can be distinguished. Inner webs passing into whitish towards edges, this prevailing on lateral feathers. Fourth quill longest; third scarcely shorter; fifth but little shorter than third; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first equal to eighth. Wing, 15.30; tail, 8.80; tarsus, 2.40; middle toe, 1.60. Length, 15¾; alar extent, 48. Bill black at tip, bluish-brown at base; iris dark brown.

HAB. Guatemala, Mexico, and adjoining parts of United States; Arizona (Cores); Santa Clara Co., Cal. (COOPER).

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 2; Philadelphia Academy, 2. Total, 4.

There can be but little doubt that this plumage denotes a younger stage of the same species as the *B. zonocercus* of Sclater. The adult bird described above is moulting, and two tail-feathers of the old plumage, which have not yet been cast, are precisely like those of this specimen, the new ones being entirely different, as will be seen by the description. Taking with this the exact similarity of the pattern of under side of primaries, as well as the plumage in general, and the sameness of proportions, one cannot but be convinced of their identity. The localities of the two specimens are also so near that it is scarcely possible they are distinct.

The plumage of this stage is parallel, in its relation to the adult, with that of the young of *B. albifrons* var. *minutus*, both differing from the mature stage in nearly the same particulars, the more numerous bands on the tail distinguishing the young of nearly all *Buteos* from adults of the same species.

An adult specimen from Mexico, in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy (without number or other indications on the label), though resembling the two specimens described, in all essential points, differs from them in regard to the coloration of the tail. The main differences are as follows: Tail deep black basally and subterminally, the tip (very narrowly) and a middle zone about 2.00 inches broad, and 1.80 from the tip, being duller and more brownish-black, this irregularly defined anteriorly, but of sharp regular definition along the posterior border; the subterminal black band is very precisely defined on the inner webs, and anterior to this nearly the whole inner web is white, irregularly blotched with black towards the base, however; the markings of somewhat longitudinal direction; the outer webs are black to the very base. Wing, 16.50; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.70; middle toe, 1.80. Wing-formula, 4, 3-5-2-6-7, 1.

Whether this is a progressive stage of plumage or a mere individual peculiarity, I do not feel certain, but am inclined to the latter opinion. Both this specimen and the immature one described are labelled *B. albonotatus*, Gray: I have been unable to refer to Gray's original description: if there is no doubt of its being pertinent to the immature stage described, then this will be the name of the species, as it has priority; I should much regret, however, to discard the very appropriate and characteristic name *zonocercus*, for the other, as Mr. Sclater's species is so satisfactorily described and accurately figured, while the original description of *albonotatus* is very meagre and difficult of reference.

**HABITS.** This Hawk is a Mexican and Guatemalan species which occa-



*Buteo zonocercus* (adult).

sionally strays into our borders in Arizona and in Southern California. Dr. Cooper was the first of our naturalists to meet with this species within the United States, shooting an individual on the 23d of February, 1862, thirty miles north of San Diego, and within five of the coast. It was associating with specimens of *B. insignatus* and other Hawks wintering there, and seemed rather sluggish and tame. He saw no other Black Hawks in that neighborhood. Two years afterwards, September 24, 1864, Dr. Coues also procured a single specimen on the Gila River. He regards the species as restricted,

within our borders, to the warm valley of the Gila and the Lower Colorado. We possess no information in regard to any distinctive specific habits it may possess. This species was first described by Dr. Sclater from a Guatemalan specimen.

The bird described as *B. albonotatus* is presumed to be identical with this species. It was observed by Mr. Salvin on the southern slope of the Cordillera, in Guatemala, which appears to be the true habitat of this species, but even there it cannot be said to be common. He states that, like many others of its class, it is a feeder on beetles and locusts.

## **Buteo lineatus, Gmelin.**

Var. **lineatus**. Gmelin

### **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.**

*Fulco lineatus*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. p. 268, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 27, 1790; Syn. I, 56, sp. 36, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, 268, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 158, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 153, 1812. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. liii, f. 3, 1808. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 296, 1831; Syn. p. 7, 1839. — CUVIER, Reg. Anim. ed. 2, I, 334, 1829. *Buteo lineatus*, JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 290, 1832. — AUD. Syn. p. 7, 1839. — BREWER, (WILS.) Am. Orn. 684, 1852. — CASSIN, Birds Cal. & Tex. Syn. 99, 1854; Birds N. Am. 1858, 28. — BONAP. Comp. Av. p. 19, 1850. — KAUP, Web. Falk. Mus. Senck. 1845, p. 261. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 30, 1855. — BREWER, Oölogy, 1857, 28, pl. iii, f. 25. — MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 19. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 7, 1869. *Poecilopternis lineatus*, KAUP, Mon. Fal. Cont. Orn. p. 76, 1850. *Fulco hyemalis*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. 274, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. 35, 1790; Syn. I, 79, sp. 62, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, p. 91. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 110, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 153, 1812. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. 35, fig. I, 1808. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 33; Isis, p. 1138, 1832. — AUD. B. Am. pl. lvi, 71, 1831; Orn. Biog. I, 364, 1831. *F. hyemalis*, var. LATH. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 8, 1801; Syn. Supp. II, 39, 1802. *Circus hyemalis*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. vii, 1807. — JAMES. Wils. Am. Orn. I, 88 & 87, 1808. *B. hyemalis*, LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 81, 1831. — BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 3, 1838. *Astur hyemalis*, JARD. Wils. Orn. II, 72, 1808. — VIEILL. Enc. Méth. III, 1273, 1823. *Nisus hyemalis*, CUV. Reg. An. ed. 2, I, 334, 1829. *Buteo fuscus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. v, 1807. *Astur fuscus*, BONAP. Oss. Cuv. Reg. An. p. 37, 1830. *Fulco buteoides*, NUTT. Man. I, 100, 1832. *Bulco cooperi* (not of Cassin), ALLEN, Am. Nat. III, 1869, 518 (young of *B. lineatus*!).

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (32,509, Washington, D. C., January). Head, neck, and inter-scapulars deep rufous (above becoming darker posteriorly), each feather with a medial stripe of blackish-brown. Throat and cheeks almost destitute of rufous tinge, the ground being dull white, — the dusky forming an indistinct "mustache," and an imperfect, obsolete collar (formed by confluent, or suffused streaks), across the throat. Breast, sides, abdomen, and tibiae rather light rufous, becoming paler posteriorly; breast with shaft-streaks of blackish; the rufous of sides of breast almost unvaried; abdomen, sides, and middle of the breast, with transverse bars of ochraceous white; tibiae uniform pale ochraceous; anal region and lower tail-coverts, immaculate white. Lesser wing-coverts chestnut-rufous, feathers with black shaft-streaks, these becoming larger posteriorly; scapulars and middle wing-coverts edged broadly with rufous, and obsoletely spotted on inner webs with white. — this somewhat exposed; secondaries dark clear brown, tipped and crossed with two (exposed) bands of white; primaries black, fading at tips into dilute grayish-



brown, and with a black spot on each web. Ramp uniform blackish-brown; upper tail-coverts tipped and banded with black. Tail clear brownish-black, crossed with six sharply defined narrow bands of white, the last of which is terminal, and the first two concealed by the upper coverts. Lining of the wing nearly uniform pale rufous, with very sparse, deeper rufous, somewhat transverse spots; under surface of primaries silvery white, crossed by broad bands, these where the white is clearest being pale rufous, bordered with dusky, but as the white grows more silvery they darken into black; the longest (fourth) has eight of these spots, including the subterminal, very broad one. Fourth quill longest; fifth, just perceptibly shorter; third, a little shorter; second, considerably longer than sixth; first equal to ninth. Wing, 13.00; tail, 8.50; tarsus, 2.90; middle toe, 1.33.

*Adult female* (11,991 Washington, D. C.; Dr. W. Wallace). Generally similar to the male, but rufous more extended, this tinging the outer webs of secondaries and primaries. On the under parts the rufous is rather deeper, and the tibiae are strongly barred, and even the lower tail-coverts have obsolete spots of the same. Wing, 13.75; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.90; middle toe, 1.50.

*Younger* (41,683, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Coues). Upper plumage precisely as in adult, but the black prevailing on head above, and nape. Beneath ochraceous-white, deepest on the tibiae; breast, abdomen, sides, and tibiae, with diamond-shaped spots of dark rufous-brown, connected along the shaft of the feathers, running thus, in a peculiar, longitudinal, chain-like series (19.50; 42.50; cere, legs, and feet bright chrome-yellow; anterior scales of tarsus with greenish tinge).

*Young male* (No. 1,210). Ground-color of head, neck, and under parts white; feathers of head and neck, with medial stripes of dark clear vandyke-brown, leaving a superciliary space, and the ear-coverts scarcely striped; a blackish suffusion over cheeks, forming a "mustache," and large longitudinal spot of the same on middle of throat; breast, abdomen, sides, and flanks, with rather sparse, irregularly sagittate spots of clear vandyke-brown, those on the sides of breast more longitudinal; tibiae, with a faint ochraceous tinge, and with sparse, small, and irregular specks of brown; lower tail-coverts with a very few distant isolated bars of the same. Upper parts generally, clear dark vandyke-brown; interscapulars and wing-coverts edged (most broadly beneath the surface) with pale rufous; middle wing-coverts with much white spotting on upper webs, partially exposed; wing-coverts generally, and scapulars, narrowly bordered with white; secondaries narrowly tipped with white, and crossed with about four (exposed) bands of paler grayish-brown; primaries inclining to black; faintly margined at ends, with whitish; outer webs anterior to the emargination, rufous-white, with distant, narrow bars of blackish, these widening on inner quills; upper tail-coverts white with transverse spots of blackish. Tail dark vandyke-brown, narrowly tipped with white, and crossed with numerous narrow bands of pale grayish-brown, these obsolete towards the base. Lining of the wing pale ochraceous, with a few irregularly cordate spots of dark brown toward edge of wing; under surface of primaries mostly white, the dusky bars not extending across the web, except on inner quills. Wing, 13.25; tail, 9.30; tarsus, 2.85; middle toe, 1.40.

*Young female* (11,994, Washington, D. C., January; C. Drexler). Almost precisely similar; tibiae unspotted; light bands of the tail more sharply defined basally, and pale mottled rufous, instead of pale ashy brown. Wing, 14.50; tail, 9.60; tarsus, 3.10; middle toe, 1.45.

HAB. Eastern N. Am.; south to Florida; west to Texas and the tributaries of the Missouri.

Localities: Orizaba, SCL. 1857, 211; S. E. Texas, DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 325 (breeds); Iverness Shore, England (Feb. 26, 1863), NEWCOME, Ibis, 1865, 549.

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 19; Philadelphia Academy, 14; Boston Society, 8; Mus. Cambridge, 16; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 4; Coll. R. Ridgway, 4. Total, 65.

*M. elegans*.

Sex.	Wing.	l.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂	11.25 - 13.50	8.00 - 9.70	.75 - .90	2.70 - 3.25	1.30 - 1.50	20 Northern.
♀	13.35 - 14.25	9.00 - 10.00	.80 - .90	3.10 - 3.20	1.35 - 1.50	7 "

This specimen may possibly indicate a mere individual variation, rather than a progressive stage of plumage.

A male (25,198, Washington, D. C., February) is as strongly barred beneath as described in the female; thus it would appear that any differences in plumage in the sexes are nothing more than individual discrepancies.

The yellowish outer webs of the primaries constitute a feature which will serve to distinguish the young of the *Buteo lineatus* from that of every other North American species.

A series of twelve specimens from Florida, in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, at Cambridge, shows that the birds of this species from that peninsula are very much smaller than northern ones; and though that of the adults does not differ appreciably, the plumage of the young birds is considerably darker than in northern specimens, and occasionally approaches quite nearly to that of the young of var. *elegans*, the markings on the lower parts, including the tibiæ, being often in the form of transverse spots.

The extreme measurements of this series are as follows: Wing, 10.90 - 12.75; tail, 7.70 - 8.50; culmen, .80 - .90; tarsus, 2.90 - 3.20; middle toe, 1.25 - 1.45. Specimens, 12.

Var. *elegans*, CASSIN.

## RED-BELLIED HAWK.

*Buteo elegans*, CASS. P. A. N. S. 1855, 281. — IB. B. N. Am. 1858, 28, plate. — HEERM. P. R. Rep. II, 32. — KENNERLY, P. R. Rep. III, 19. — NEWB. VII, 75. — COOP. & SUCKL. XII, ii, 147. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 38. — ? DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 325 (Texas). — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 9 (Arizona). — GRAY, Hand List, I, 7. — COOPER, Birds Cal. 1870, 477.

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (10,573, Ft. Tejon, California, "Oct. 22, 1857"; J. Xantus). Head, neck, interscapulars, anterior scapulars, lesser wing-coverts, lining of the wing, and entire lower parts, dark lateritious-rufous, inclining to chestnut on the shoulders. The upper parts so colored have each feathers with a medial-ovate space of dull black, giving a striped appearance; the lesser wing-coverts, however, have each only a narrow shaft-line of black, these growing larger as they approach the middle coverts. There is a strong black suffusion over the cheeks, forming an obscure "mustache"; orbit blackish, throat streaked with the same. The dark lateritious-rufous of the jugulum and breast is perfectly continuous and uniform, varied only by the obsoletely darker shafts of the feathers; sides and flanks transversely barred with white; lining of the wing, and tibiæ, with very ill-defined bars of paler rufous; anal region and lower tail-coverts with broader and more sharply defined bars of the same. Scapulars and middle wing-coverts brownish-black, narrowly tipped, and irregularly spotted transversely, with pure white; secondaries

and greater coverts brownish-black, tinged with rufous, and broadly tipped and crossed with sharply defined bands of pure white, of which there are on secondaries about six exposed (including the terminal band); primaries and their coverts deep black (tinged anterior to their emargination with rufous), tipped with pure white, and having spots of white on outer webs. Rump and upper tail-coverts brownish-black, with indistinct transverse bands of white, the latter sharply tipped with the same. Tail clear brownish-black sharply tipped with white, and with about five sharply defined bands of the same, about .30 of an inch in width. Under surface of secondaries and primaries white to near the ends, where they are black; the tips, however, again white; the white portion crossed by regular transverse bands, those where the white is purest being light rufous, but as the white shades toward the black they become dusky; the rufous bars are, however, bordered with dusky. Fifth quill longest; third and fourth longer than sixth; second a little shorter than sixth; first intermediate between ninth and tenth. Wing, 12.50; tail, 8.00; tarsus, 2.90; middle toe, 1.40.

*Young.* Predominating color, blackish-brown; this existing on under parts in large, confluent sagittate spots, which are longitudinal on throat and jugulum, and more transverse on sides, abdomen, tibiae, and lower tail-coverts, the ground-color of lower parts being dull ochraceous. The head and neck, all around, presenting a uniform, streaked appearance, the edges of the feathers being ochraceous, but the black far exceeding this in amount. Interseapulars and scapulars bordered with rusty rufous; wing-coverts more broadly bordered with ochraceous, and with much concealed dull white spotting; lesser wing-coverts, with a strong wash of rich dark rufous; secondaries tipped with white, and crossed by two or three (exposed) broad bands of dull ashy; primaries brownish-black, narrowly tipped with white, and with ill-defined restricted spots of the same on outer webs. Rump uniform blackish-brown, feathers faintly bordered with rusty; upper tail-coverts tipped and barred with white. Tail brownish-black tipped with white, and crossed with five narrow bands of dull light ashy. Lining of wing dull, dingy ochraceous, with numerous transverse bars of brown; fourth quill longest; third shorter than fifth; second longer than sixth; first equal to ninth. Wing (male, 10,572, Fort Tejon), 12.00; tail, 8.40; tarsus, 2.82; middle toe, 1.35. Female (4,520, Santa Clara, Cal.; Dr. Cooper), wing, 13.00; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.90; middle toe, 1.52.

*HAB.* Pacific, and southern portion of the middle Provinces of the United States; Mexico.

Localities quoted: Texas (San Antonio, winter), (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 325); Arizona (COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 9); city of Mexico (SCL. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1869, 364).

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 4; Philadelphia Academy, 4; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 1; R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 11.

#### Measurements.

Wing, 12.00–13.00; tail, 8.75–9.50; culmen, .78–.90; tarsus, 3.00–3.12; middle toe, 1.40–1.50.

The young of the *Buteo elegans* differs most remarkably from that of *B. lineatus*; the pattern of coloration appears scarcely the same, for the ochraceous on outer webs of primaries, anterior to their emargination, — which is a feature distinguishing the immature *lineatus* from all other *Buteos*, — is in the present bird almost obliterated by the extension of the dusky.

*HABITS.* The Red-shouldered Hawk has an extended distribution, being found more or less abundant from Florida to Nova Scotia, and from the

Atlantic to the Pacific coast it is replaced by the *Buteo elegans*. Mr. J. A. Allen found it by far the most abundant of this family in Florida. In Texas the two races, *lineatus* and *elegans*, appear to occur together, Mr. Dresser having met with both near San Antonio. The Red-shouldered Hawk was noticed by this writer from the river Neuces eastward. He found it breeding in the heavily wooded river bottoms of the Medina, and several others of the rivers of Texas, but did not succeed in procuring the eggs. It breeds abundantly in Florida, and thence throughout the United States as far north as Northern Vermont, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Lieutenant Bland notices it as a common and migratory species in Nova Scotia, but Mr. Downes speaks of it as rare near Halifax, where he only met with two specimens. Mr. Boardman gives it as quite common near Calais, breeding there and probably resident. In Western Maine Mr. Ver-rill regarded the species as a not very common summer resident, where it was also known to breed, as he met with its nest and eggs May 24, 1860. It is quite common in Eastern Massachusetts, where it is found all the year, but where it is more abundant in the fall, from the addition of northern migrants, than at any other time. A few are found throughout the winter, keeping about open springs and in sheltered situations. Mr. Allen also speaks of it as not uncommon in the western part of the same State. It was not taken or seen by Richardson in northern regions, nor does it appear to have been observed in any of the West India Islands.

The history and habits of this very common Hawk seem to have been involved, among earlier writers, in a confusion that seems hardly explicable. Wilson described and always regarded the young and old as two distinct species, calling the former *hyemalis*, giving to it a northern residence, and the mature bird *lineatus*. Mr. Audubon repeated this error at first, and sought to demonstrate its correctness by giving to the two forms very dissimilar habits. Bonaparte believed these forms to be identical, and Nuttall did the same, but was altogether in error as to its distribution. He was not aware of its presence in Massachusetts, where it is at times the most abundant of the raptorial birds. This writer only met with it in the Southern States, where he found it very common in swampy situations. He speaks of its having a quailing cry of mutual recognition, which is a plaintive echoing note, like *keé-óó*, which is continued with little intermission for nearly twenty minutes. He describes the species as not shy, and as very easily approached. These Hawks remain mated throughout the year, and their affectionate treatment of each other is in striking contrast with the selfish indifference of the Red-tail species when their breeding-season is ended.

Nuttall observed it feeding on frogs, cray-fish, and even insects, and rarely troubling larger game. In only one instance did he see one descend upon a Plover. Wilson saw them attack Plover, Sand-pipers, Larks, and even Hawks; but the last is very rare and exceptional. I have never known one of this species to molest the poultry-yard. From 1828 to 1838,



during my stay in Roxbury, a pair of these Hawks were residents within a few hundred yards of the house, where, as they never molested the tenants of the barn-yard, they were not allowed to be disturbed. Their breeding-place we could not find, but they kept about an open spring during the winter, feeding upon small game, and were not at all shy. One of them unfortunately was wounded, and was kept in confinement several days. It was the male bird, in full adult plumage, and was by no means wild, feeding readily upon what was given to it, even with our near presence. It would not tolerate a too great familiarity, but manifested great irritation if we attempted to approach it. Its wing had been badly shattered, and it finally died from mortification of the wound. It would never submit to be handled, and fought desperately when we sought to have its limb bound up. After we gave up this attempt as impossible it became rather more familiar, and would even at last greet me with a welcome cry of recognition, and take its food from my hand.

Wilson, in speaking of the adult bird, states that this Hawk has a high and very irregular flight, and is quite different from that of species with longer wings. In his account of the immature plumage, he notes its arrival in Pennsylvania early in November, and its departure in March. He speaks of it as a dexterous catcher of frogs, and adds that it sometimes so stuffs itself that it can fly with difficulty. He has found the remains of ten frogs in the stomach of a single individual.

The Red-shouldered Hawk constructs a large nest, not unlike that of the Crow, in the forked branches of a high tree. It is composed externally of sticks, and is lined with moss and soft leaves. The eggs are four in number, and occasionally three or two. When the nest is approached, the bird utters loud, frequent, and peculiar cries of alarm and resentment, *not* unlike *keé-oó!* rapidly repeated, but makes no attempt at resistance. The pair return year after year to the same nest, even when it has been robbed the previous season.

The eggs of this Hawk are of a very uniform spheroidal-oval shape, but slightly pointed at one end, and exhibit certain very general characteristics in the colors of their markings, but vary greatly in their size. The length varies from 2.20 to 2.00, and the breadth from 1.81 to 1.56. The ground-color is usually a dingy white, rarely pure white, and frequently with decidedly brownish tinge. The blotches are most frequently of a yellowish umber color; sometimes blotches of sienna-brown, slate-drab, and more obscure shades of brown are present, and these colors are not unfrequently confusedly mingled. An egg from Cheraw, S. C., has a ground-color of a light drab, tinged with slate and without any blotches whatever. It is not uncommon to find these nearly unspotted eggs in the same nest with others very boldly and profusely blotched. The Cheraw egg measures 2.00 by 1.56 inches; an egg from Massachusetts, 2.20 by 1.81: their relative capacity being nearly as three to four. They average about 2.10 by 1.68 inches.

Mr. L. Heiligbrodt found the nest of this Hawk near Austin, Texas. One egg was taken from the nest, and in a few days after a second was found to have been deposited (S. I. 15,894).

The handsome variety known as *B. elegans* is generally spoken of by all familiar with its habits, as well as with its appearance, as the almost exact counterpart of the Red-shouldered Hawk, replacing that form on the west coast.

In regard to its distinctive specific habits but little is as yet known, but it is probable they are not essentially different from those of the *lineatus*, Dr. Cooper bearing positive testimony to this fact. He found this Hawk common in the southern part of the State, especially near San Diego, but he did not meet with any in the Colorado Valley. On his approach to one of them, it would always fly off from its usual perch, circling up high into the air, and uttering short



*Buteo elegans*

shrill screams in rapid succession in the manner of the *lineatus*. He noticed a pair constantly at one place near a ranch, and supposed they were about building there, but was not able to find the nest.

Among the memoranda of Mr. Xantus, made at Fort Tejon, Cal., is one dated May 9, mentioning the finding the nest of this species. It contained four eggs, was built in an old decayed tree, in a swamp, and was about fifteen feet from the ground. The nest was large and made of sticks.

### ***Buteo borealis* (Gmel.).**

#### **RED-TAILED HAWK.**

**SP. CHAR.** Form heavy and robust; wings moderate, the third to fifth quill longest; the first shorter than the seventh; outer four with inner webs cut. Feet strong, the tarsi and toes robust, and claws not very acute. Dimensions: Wing, 13.50–17.25; tail, 8.50–11.30; culmen, .90–1.15; tarsus, 2.70–3.40; middle toe, 1.60–1.95; weight, 2½ to 4 lbs. Colors: *Adult*: tail, deep lateritious-rufous, paler at the tip, and usually with a subterminal bar of black (sometimes without any bar, and sometimes with numerous bars to the base). Above blackish-brown, more or less variegated with whitish on

the scapulars and wing-coverts; beneath white, usually with a belt of blackish spots across the abdomen; sometimes wholly dusky or blackish beneath, but the pectoral region always appreciably lighter than the abdomen; under surface of primaries plain white anterior to their emargination. *Young*. Tail grayish-brown, with nine or ten narrow, sharply defined bands of blackish. Pattern of other parts as in the adult, but the white purer, and the plumage generally with less rufous.

HAB. Entire continent of North America; West Indies.

The plumage varies from wholly dusky blackish, with a paler, more brownish, pectoral area, and the tail of the adult with numerous black bars, or indications of bars, to the very base (var. *calurus*), through various proportionate degrees of rufous and dusky, to entirely pure white beneath, without any spotting; the tail of the adult without a single black bar (vars. *krideri* and *lucasanus*).

Var *borealis*, GMELIN.

EASTERN RED-TAIL.

*Falco borealis*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 266, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 25, 1790; Syn. I, p. 50, 1780; Supp. II, 34, 1787; Gen. Hist. I, p. 265, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 157, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 112, 1812. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. lii, fig. 1, 1808. — SAB. Frankl. Exp. p. 670. — WAGL. Isis, p. 517, 1831. — BONAP. Ann. N. Y. L. II, pp. 32, 434; Isis, p. 1138, 1832. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. li, 1831; Orn. Biog. I, p. 265, 1831; Syn. VI. — GRAY, Genera, 1840. — RICH. F. B. A. II, 50, 1831. — NUTT. Man. I, 102, 1840. — GOSSE, Birds Jam. II, 1847. — DOUGH. Cab. I, 229, pl. xxx, 1830. *Buteo borealis*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. IV, p. 478, 1819; Enc. Méth. III, p. 1222, 1823. — VIG. Zool. Journ. I, p. 340; Zool. Beech. Voy. p. 15. — STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. 2, p. 47, 1826. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 79, 1831. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, pp. 82, 84, 1808. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, pp. 280, 282, 1808. — BREW. (WILS.) Am. Orn. p. 450; Synop. p. 684. — BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 3, 1833; Cons. Av. p. 19. — AUD. Synop. p. 6, 1839. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 6, 1844; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 34, 1844. — PUCHER. Rev. Zool. p. 214, 1850. — GOSSE, B. Jam. p. 11, pl. ii, 1847. — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. Syn. p. 97, 1854; Proc. Ac. Sc. Philad. p. 279, 1855. — GAMB. Journ. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. N. S. I, p. 26. — NUTT. Man. Orn. U. S. & Canad. p. 102, 1833. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, p. 9, pl. viii, f. 17 (Juv.), 1844. — PEAB. Bost. Journ. Nat. Hist. III, p. 80, 1837. — THOMP. Hist. Verm. App. p. 63, 1853. — PEALE, U. S. Expl. Exp. p. 62, 1848. — TOWNS. Sit. Exp. Zoon. & Color. p. 59. — KAUP, Ueb. Falk. Mus. Senck. p. 261, 1845. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 29, 1855. — MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 17. — BLAKIST. Ibis, III, 1861, 318. — WOOD, Am. Nat. III, 1869, 393. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 7. *Astur borealis*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 332, 1829. — SWAINS. Class. B. I, 316; II, 215, 1837. *Pæcilopternis borealis*, KAUP, Isis, Mon. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 76. *Falco leverianus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. 266, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 181, 1790; Syn. Supp. I, 31, 1787; Gen. Hist. I, 620, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 126, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 151, 1812. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. lii (Juv.), 1808. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 265. *Buteo leverianus*, VIG. Zool. Journ. I, 340. — STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. 2, p. 47, 1815. *Falco aquilinus*, BARTR. Tran. p. 390, 1791. *Accipiter ruficaudus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. xiv, bis, 1807. *Buteo fulvus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. p. 34; Nouv. Dict. Hist. IV, p. 468 (quot. *F. jamaicensis*), 1819. *Buteo ferrugineocaudus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. vi, 1807. — CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 337. *Buteo americanus*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. Nat. IV, 477 (quot.), Ois. Am. Merid. pl. vi, Enc. Méth. III, 1224, 1823. ? *Buteo gallinivorus*, VIEILL. Ois. *Buteo borealis*, BREWER, N. A. Oology, 1857.

**Sp. Char.** *Adult.* Upper parts rich blackish-brown, approaching black on the back; scapulars and middle wing-coverts edged and barred beneath the surface with dull white, and tinged along edges with ochraceous. Wings generally of a paler shade than the back; secondaries fading into nearly white at tips, and, with the greater coverts, obscurely barred with darker; primaries nearly black, tips edged with pale brown, this passing into whitish. Rump uniform blackish-brown, feathers obscurely bordered with rusty. Upper tail-coverts ochraceous-white, nearly pure terminally, and with about two distinct transverse bars of deep rufous. Tail rich uniform lateritious-rufous, passing narrowly into white at the tip, and about an inch (or less) from the end crossed by a narrow band of black. Head and neck with the feathers medially blackish-brown, their edges rusty-rufous, causing a streaked appearance; the rufous prevailing on the sides of the occiput, the ear-coverts, and neck. The blackish almost uniform on the forehead and on the cheeks, over which it forms a broad "mustache"; lores and sides of frontlet whitish. Throat white, with broad stripes of pure slaty-brown; lower parts in general ochraceous-white; tibiae and lower tail-coverts immaculate; across the abdomen and flanks (immediately in front of the tibiae) is a broad interrupted belt of longitudinal black blotches, those on the abdomen tear-shaped, on the flanks larger and more irregular, throwing off bars toward the edge of the feathers; whole pectoral area variegated only with a few shaft-streaks of black (these growing broader laterally), and sometimes washed with rusty. Lining of the wing ochraceous-white, with sparse diamond-shaped spots of pale rufous, and shaft-streaks of darker; under surface of primaries white anterior to their emargination, beyond which they gradually deepen into black; the innermost ones are finely mottled with slaty, and with imperfect transverse bars of the same.

*Male.* Wing, 13.50–16.50; tail, 8.50–10.00; culmen, .95–1.08; tarsus, 1.40–3.20; middle toe, 1.60–1.70. Weight, 2½–3 lbs.

*Female.* Wing, 15.25–17.75; tail, 9.50–10.50; culmen, 1.00–1.15; tarsus, 3.15–3.40; middle toe, 1.70–1.80. Weight, 3–4 lbs.

*Young* (28,154, Philadelphia; J. Krider). Above similar to the adult, but lacking entirely any rufous tinge, the scapulars and wing-coverts more variegated with whitish. Tail light grayish-brown (very much lighter than the rump), tinged, especially basally, with rufous, narrowly tipped with white, and crossed with nine or ten narrow, curved bands of black; upper tail-coverts white, with broad bars of black. Head as in the adult, but the rufous wanting, leaving the streaks black and white; forehead more broadly white; chin and throat wholly white, the latter with a collar of dusky streaks across the lower part; whole pectoral region entirely immaculate, pure white; abdominal band as in the adult; tibiae somewhat tinged with ochraceous, unvariegated.

**HAB.** Eastern North America; not in West Indies, nor west of the Missouri.

**Localities:** (?) Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. 1867, 64).

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 9; Philadelphia Academy, 13; Boston Society, 8; Museum, Cambridge, 15; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 3; Coll. R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 50.

The true *Buteo borealis*, as restricted, may always be distinguished from the var. *calurus*, its western representative, by its having the posterior lower parts (tibiae and lower tail-coverts) entirely free from transverse bars, and by lacking indications of transverse bars on the tail, anterior to the conspicuous subterminal one. It differs from the var. *costaricensis*, in having the head and neck conspicuously striped with rufous, and the throat thickly striped with black, almost obliterating the white; in the conspicuous abdom-



inal belt of large black spots, and in having the tibiæ lighter ochraceous than the breast; from the var. *lucanus* and var. *krideri*, it is distinguished by having the black tail-band, more spotted under parts, and in the upper tail-coverts being white, banded with rufous, instead of plain white, or deep rufous, uniform with the tail.

A specimen (No. 1,750, Carlisle, Pa.; S. F. Baird) appears at first sight much like the var. *calurus*, being very dark; the tibiæ, anal region, and the lower tail-coverts are, however, not barred as in this, and the tail possesses but the subterminal band.

An immature specimen (No. 21,488; John Krider) from Philadelphia has the tibiæ quite distinctly barred, but less conspicuously so than in young of var. *calurus*.

Var. **krideri**, HOOPES.

#### WHITE-BELLIED RED-TAIL.

*Buteo krideri*, HOOPES, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1873, p. —

SP. CHAR. *Adult*. Similar to var. *borealis*, but beneath continuous pure white, without rufous tinge, and without distinct spots across the abdomen, or lacking them entirely; above much lighter, the brown, light rufous, and white being about equal in amount. Upper tail-coverts immaculate white; tail pale rufous, the shafts pure white, and the webs mixed with white along their edges, its amount increasing toward the base; no trace of a dusky subterminal bar, or else only indicated by badly defined spots.

*Young*. Differing from that of var. *borealis* in the immaculate, snowy-white lower parts, nearly equal extent of the white and dusky on the upper parts, and whitish cast of the tail.

Two females (one shot from nest of two eggs, near Alexandria, Minn., May 8, 1872,<sup>1</sup> and the other, also shot from nest of two eggs, near Pelican Lake, Minn., May 21, 1872<sup>2</sup>) are entirely absolutely pure white beneath, there being but the faintest indications of markings in the region of the usual abdominal belt; even the whole under side of the wing is almost immaculate. The ground-color of the upper parts is pale grayish-brown, about equally variegated transversely, on the scapulars and tertials, with white. In one of them, the sides of the head and neck are pale fawn-color, the "mustache" from the rictus brownish-black in conspicuous contrast; the upper parts are nearly equally variegated with brown, light rufous, and white, the latter predominating posteriorly. The upper tail-coverts are immaculate white. The tail-feathers are light rufous, with pure white shafts, considerably mixed with white along the edges of the feathers, the white considerably increasing towards the base of the tail. Of the subterminal dusky band there is no trace in one specimen, while in the other it is indicated by transverse spots, while the inner webs along the shafts are much variegated with transverse dusky spots. The male specimen (shot at Chippewa Lake, Minn., from nest (!) of two eggs May 19, 1872<sup>3</sup>) is considerably darker, nearly like the average plumage of eastern var. *borealis*. Still the white of the lower parts is remarkably pure, being of an almost snowy clearness, without any trace whatever of an ochraceous tinge.

No. 8,532, Devil's River, Texas (Nov. 1855; Dr. C. B. Kennerly), differs only in being a

<sup>1</sup> "Nest in oak-tree, in edge of wood, by lake."

<sup>2</sup> "Nest twenty-five feet high, in oak-tree."

<sup>3</sup> "Nest at top of broken poplar-tree near lake."

little less pure white beneath, the lower parts being very appreciably tinged with rufous posteriorly.

HAB. Plains of the United States, from Minnesota to Texas (Devil's River, M. S. I.).

Var. *lucasanus*, RIDGWAY.

#### ST. LUCAS RED-TAIL.

"*Buteo borealis* var. *lucasanus*, RIDGWAY," COLES, KLV, 1872, 216 (under *B. borealis*).

SP. CHAR. *Adult*. General appearance of the normal plumage of var. *calurus*, but the upper parts more uniformly blackish, and the upper tail-coverts and tail uniform rufous, the latter without a trace of a black bar. Beneath nearly uniform reddish ochraceous, or light rufous, the usual abdominal belt merely indicated by a few inconspicuous spots; no trace of transverse bars on the lower parts. *Female*? (No. 16,925, Cape St. Lucas, Sept. 15, 1859; J. Xantus). Wing, 16.00; tail, 9.50; tarsus, 3.00; middle toe, 1.60. Wing-formula 5, 4, 3, 2-6-7-8-9, 1, 10.

*Young*. Not distinguishable, by positive characters, from that of var. *calurus*.

HAB. Peninsula of Lower California.

All adult specimens from the peninsula of Lower California agree with that described above, in the peculiar features which I consider as characterizing a well-marked local race. The present form is most nearly related, in its adult dress, to the var. *krideri* of the plains, in its unbarred tail and immaculate lower plumage, but differs from this in having the upper parts nearly black instead of almost white, the upper tail-coverts deep rufous, like the tail, instead of white, and the lower parts rufous instead of white; in the rufous lower plumage and very dark upper parts, it closely resembles var. *costaricensis*<sup>1</sup> of Central America and Southern Mexico, but the latter has

<sup>1</sup> *Buteo borealis*, var. *costaricensis*, RIDGWAY. *Buteo borealis* (all citations from Central America).

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (No. 30,409, Costa Rica; Dr. A. von Frantzius). Head, neck, and upper parts continuous, unvariegated brownish-black; whole throat white, with a few cuneate spots of black; black of the neck meeting narrowly across the jugulum; pectoral area immaculate pure white; upper part of abdomen with an imperfect belt of distinct narrow lanceolate strips of black; whole posterior lower parts fine pinkish ochraceous, unvariegated; tibia deepest, inclining to delicate ochraceous-rufous; upper tail-coverts immaculate rufous. Tail as in var. *borealis*. Wing, 16.00; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 3.20; middle toe, 1.80. Bill very high, abruptly curved. Wing-formula, 4, 5, 3, 6, 2; first, shortest.

This very curious variety is that which departs furthest from the true *borealis*; not only the details, but in a measure the pattern, of coloration, being greatly modified. The perfectly continuous pure brownish-black of the whole head and neck, sharply contrasted with the white throat-patch, are features which distinguish it from every other variety of this group; while the deep rufous tibia, and almost utter absence of transverse bars beneath, are also very distinctive characters.

The second of the two Costa Rican specimens before me (No. 33,507; J. Carmiol) differs from the type in having the white of the pectoral area clouded by an encroachment of the blackish of the neck; and across the abdomen is a deep wash of the same. The tail-feathers exhibit indications of spots along the shafts, as in var. *calurus*; while the upper tail-coverts have a very few bars of blackish.

*Young* (37,338, Tres Marias Islands, January; Col. A. J. Grayson). Similar to the adult

a barred tail, entirely continuous black above, plain white throat patch, and other minor differences, besides having a quite different young plumage. As to the young plumage of var. *lucasanus*, I cannot find any character by which it can with certainty be distinguished from that of var. *calurus*.

Var. *calurus*, CASSIN

#### WESTERN RED-TAIL; BLACK RED-TAIL.

*Buteo calurus*, CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Phil. VII, 281, 1855; Birds N. Am. 1858, 22.

SIEDELL, Orn. Syn. I, 38, 1855. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 8, 1866. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 7, 1869. *Buteo montanus* (not of NUTTALL!), CASSIN, Birds N. Am. 1858, 26. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rept. VI, iv, 1857. — HELLM. P. R. R. Rept. VII, 31, 1857. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, ii, 147, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 7, 1866. — *Buteo swainsoni* (not of BONAP!), CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. p. 98, 1854.

SP. CHAR. *Adult*. Similar to var. *borealis*, but darker, with more rufous and blackish in the plumage; tibiae always, and flanks and crissum usually, barred with rufous; throat with the dark streaks suffused and widened, so as to form the prevailing color. Tail with indications of transverse bars anterior to the usual subterminal one, these varying in number and distinctness with the individual. Whole plumage sometimes sooty black, the breast, however, covered by an appreciably paler patch, usually of a somewhat rufous hue. Tail sometimes with regular and continuous narrow bands to the very base.

*Young*. Very much darker than that of var. *borealis*, the pattern being similar, but the dark markings much expanded and more numerous; tibiae with heavy transverse spots of dusky.

HAB. Western region of North America, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific; south into Mexico; West Indies (Jamaica and Cuba, Mus. S. I.).

Localities quoted: (?) Xalapa (SCLATER, P. Z. S. 1859, 368); Oaxaca (SCL. P. Z. S. 1859, 389); (?) Cuba (CAB. Journ. II. lxxxii; GUNDL. Rep. 1865, 223; resident. "*B. borealis*"); S. E. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 324).

#### LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 44; Philadelphia Academy, 18; Boston Society, 6; Coll. G. N. Lawrence, 2; R. Ridgway, 5. Total, 75.

in general appearance, but differing in the following particulars: Tail deep unbar, with about twelve or thirteen narrow bands of black, and very narrowly tipped with whitish; lateral lower parts thickly spotted with blackish, and tibiae spotted transversely with the same; lower tail-coverts with distant bars of blackish. Upper tail-coverts blackish-brown barred with white, this not touching the shaft.

HAB. Central America and Southwestern Mexico; Costa Rica, Veragua, and Tres Marias Islands (Mus. S. I.).

Localities: (?) Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I, 217, *B. borealis*); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 133, "*var. montanus*").

*List of Specimens Examined*. National Museum, 4.

Measurements much the same as in the other varieties.

## Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Number.
♂	13.50 - 16.00	9.50 - 10.00	.90 - 1.10	2.90 - 3.30	1.70 - 1.80	30 N. Am.
♀	16.00 - 17.25	9.50 - 11.30	1.00 - 1.08	3.30 - 3.40	1.80 - 1.95	16 "
♂	13.25 - 14.00	9.00 -	1.00 -	3.30 -	1.80 -	2 Jamaican
♀	14.50 -	9.00 -	1.10 -	3.25 -	1.75 -	1 "
♂	15.50 -	9.50 -	1.15 -	3.10 -	1.85 -	1 Cuban.

A large collection of specimens of this race presents a series connecting *borealis* with the black form known as "*calurus*"; every possible condition between the two being indicated in the range of individual variation. The lightest styles as distinguished from var. *borealis* always have the tibiæ barred with rufous; the crissum, also, is generally barred, on the throat the blackish-brown predominates, and the tail has more or less perfect bars to the roots of the feathers; generally, however, these are merely indicated by projections from the shafts.

The extreme condition of this is the melanistic form which Mr. Cassin described as "*Buteo calurus*"; the darkest example of which (5,481, Petaluma, Cal.; E. Samuels) is entirely blackish-brown, wings and scapulars with feathers somewhat paler at tips; breast inclining to dark sepia-brown, the feathers with black shaft-streaks; tibial feathers faintly tipped with pale grayish-brown; lower tail-coverts tipped and barred with rufous; upper tail-coverts deep rufous barred with black; tail deep chestnut-rufous, the sub-terminal black band very broad, and anterior to this are nine or ten imperfect narrower black bands.

These fuliginous examples have always a more or less appreciably lighter pectoral area, corresponding to the white of this region seen in the lighter styles.

Of this race, almost each individual has its own characteristic markings, and scarcely two are to be found alike in a very large series from Western North America. All the specimens from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, and from the table-lands of Mexico, as well as from Cuba and Jamaica, are referrible to this variety, although we are not aware that in the latter region the bird ever becomes black. In the latter island this species (as is also the case with many other birds) seems to be remarkably subject to albinism. In the peninsula of Lower California it is replaced by the var. *lucanus*, and in Central America by the very different var. *costaricensis*; from both of which it may be distinguished by the numerous transverse rufous bars crossing the posterior under parts, which character serves also to distinguish the lightest examples from the eastern typical *borealis*.

A specimen (50,761; Colonel Grayson) from the Socorro Island, S. W. Mexico, is like some Fort Tejon specimens.



No. 41,759 (immature), Merida, Yucatan (Dr. Schott), is remarkably light colored, or, rather, is unusually variegated with whitish above; the tail, also, is almost white; the bands, however, very conspicuous. The lower parts are as thickly spotted as in specimens from Washington Territory.

The young bird of this western style is as different from that of the eastern as is the adult, and the essential differences are about the same, — i. e. darker colors, or a predominance, or, rather, increase in size, of the dark markings. The numerous heavy transverse spots on the tibia constitute a persistent feature of the young of the var. *calurus*, as compared with the almost, or perfectly, immaculate white of those in var. *borealis*.

It being certain that the *Buteo montanus* of Nuttall is really the *B. swainsoni*, and not the variety of *borealis* so called by Mr. Cassin, it becomes necessary to drop this name in connection with the present bird, and transfer it as a synonyme to *swainsoni*. In its place, Mr. Cassin's name *calurus* must be substituted, under which was described the melanistic condition of the present variety of *borealis*.

In describing his *B. montanus*, Nuttall cites Audubon's plate of "*Falco buteo*," which, of course, is a name by which the *B. swainsoni* was first designated before it was distinguished from the *B. vulgaris* of Europe. Audubon's plate represents, unmistakably, the adult female of the *Buteo swainsoni*.

**HABITS.** The well-known Red-tailed Hawk is widely distributed throughout North America from the West Indies and Central America to the Arctic regions, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

According to Sir John Richardson, it is common in the fur countries, which it visits in summer, and where a few are known to breed. Specimens were taken by his party on the Rocky Mountains, the plains of the Saskatchewan, and at the York factory. These were all between the 53d and the 57th parallels of latitude.

Mr. Salvin cites it as generally and plentifully distributed throughout Guatemala, from whence numerous examples in all stages of plumage, from the young to the



*Buteo borealis* (adult).

adult, were transmitted by Mr. Skinner. It was also found at Dueñas by him. Mr. Swainson states that this Hawk was taken on the plains of Mexico by Mr. Taylor. A single specimen was received by Mr. Lawrence

from Panama. Mr. Gosse states that it is the most common bird of this family in Jamaica, where it is a resident, and where it breeds. Mr. Lem-beye and Dr. Gundlach both include it in their lists of the birds of Cuba, and the latter marks it as breeding in that island. It has been observed in Florida by Mr. Allen, and is not uncommon in all the New England States, where it is resident throughout the year. In the Southern States it is most abundant in the winter months.

Specimens of this bird are recorded in the government reports as obtained from the Yellowstone, from the Pecos River in Texas, and from Fort Fillmore in New Mexico. Mr. Dresser found it common throughout all of Texas in all seasons of the year, breeding in all parts, but preferring the heavily timbered country. He obtained its eggs from Systerdale and from the Medina River.

This Hawk is a strong and powerful bird, with a firm, steady, and protracted flight, frequently at a great elevation, and often moving quite a distance without any apparent motion of the wings. It is said to generally descend upon its prey from some fixed position, as the branch of a tree, and rarely to dart upon it when flying. It is a cautious bird, and rarely ventures near a house for poultry except when the dwelling is isolated and near its own haunts. It preys chiefly upon small quadrupeds, small birds, and reptiles. It usually darts upon a snake from the branch of a tree, and seizing it near the head bears it writhing through the air. In the valley of the Saskatchewan, Richardson states that it watches for the marmots, and when one imprudently ventures from its burrow, darts upon it, bears it a short distance off, and tears it to pieces.

As they fly, these birds utter a very peculiar and unpleasantly harsh cry or scream, which they repeat very frequently. Capt. Blakiston observed this at the Red River settlement, and speaks of it as the Squealing Hawk.

Though said to be thus generally cautious in exposing itself to danger in approaching a poultry-yard, it is not always thus cautious. Mr. Downes mentions an instance where one of these birds entered a garden in Halifax to pounce upon a tame Crow, and was captured alive by the owner.

Mr. Audubon states that after rearing their young they no longer remain mated, but separate and evince rather jealous hostility to each other than good-will. When one has taken any prey in sight of another, the latter will pursue and struggle with it for possession of the plunder. In these fights they scream vociferously while struggling for possession.

In the Southern States these Hawks begin to build in February; in the Middle States, from March the 24th to April 15th; and in New England usually from April to May. They construct a large nest, composed externally of coarse sticks and twigs, and lined with dried grasses, moss, and leaves, built for the most part in the fork of a lofty tree. The eggs are usually four in number.

Mr. Augustus Fowler of Danvers, who is familiar with the habits of this

bird, writes me that in Massachusetts they usually begin to build their nests about the first of April, selecting some tall tree near the middle of the woods, the branches of which form a crotch near its trunk. To this chosen spot the female carries a sufficient quantity of sticks for its outside (the male taking no very active part in the matter), and for its inside she uses the bark from the dead branches of the chestnut, which she beats and pecks to pieces with her bill, making it soft and pliable, or gathers the fallen leaves of the pine, or some other soft material, which she finds conveniently, as a lining, which is about one inch in thickness. It is thirteen inches in diameter from outside to outside, and seven inches in diameter on the inside, while its depth is two and a half inches. The female usually lays five eggs, which are spherical, of a dirty-white color, and marked with large blotches of brown; on some they cover almost the whole egg, while others are marked mostly on the large end, and some even of the same nest are so faintly marked as to appear almost wholly white. They are 2.12 inches in length and 1.95 in diameter.

In Jamaica, according to Mr. March, these Hawks do not confine themselves to any particular mode or place for breeding, height seeming to be their chief object. He has found their nest in a quite accessible tree, not more than twenty feet from the ground, and near a frequented path. In another instance a pair nested for several years on the roof of the turret of the belfry of the Spanishtown Cathedral church. The nest he describes as a platform of dry sticks, more than a foot across and two or three inches thick. The bed of the nest is about six inches across and two deep, of fine inner bark, grass, and leaves, containing four or five eggs, nearly spherical, measuring 2.25 by 2.75 inches, of a dirty or clayish white, dashed with blotches and spots of vandyke-brown and umber, often running with a light shade into the ground-color.

The eggs of the Red-tail exhibit great variations in nearly every respect except their shape, which is pretty uniformly a spheroidal-oval. Their ground-color varies from white to a dingy rusty drab, their markings vary greatly in colors, shades, size, frequency, and distribution. In some the markings are small, few, and light, and the egg appears to be of an almost homogeneous brownish-white. In others the ground is completely concealed by large and confluent blotches of deep and dark purplish-brown, burnt umber, and a peculiar shade known as Dutch umber. In some the markings are distributed in fine and frequent granulations, diffused over the entire surface of the egg, producing the effect of a color of uniform umber brown, through which the ground of yellowish-white can only be traced by a magnifying-glass. Four eggs in my cabinet average 2.22 inches in length by 1.72 in breadth. The largest egg measures 2.55 by 1.90 inches; the smallest, 2.10 by 1.70. The capacity of the largest to the smallest is nearly as five to four.

The season in which this Hawk deposits its eggs varies considerably.

Mr. Jackson of West Chester, Penn., gives March 24 the earliest, and April 15 the latest, in which he has met with its fresh eggs.

Mr. Ridgway obtained two eggs of this Hawk at Mount Carmel, Ill., on the 6th of March, the nest having been commenced early in February. It was placed on the summit of a black-gum tree (*Nyssa multiflora*), and rested upon the topmost branches, about ninety feet from the ground. It was lined with corn-husks, gathered from a field close by. The eggs (No. 12,740, S. I. Collection) measure, respectively, 2.45 and 2.50 in length, by 1.95 and 2.00 in breadth. Their color is plain bluish-white, entirely free from markings of any kind.

In California, the var. *calurus* is stated to be common in all parts of the State not destitute of trees, and to reside permanently wherever found, pairing only during the breeding-season. They prey upon hares and other small quadrupeds, upon smaller birds, and upon reptiles. Dr. Cooper states that at times, when food is plenty, they become excessively fat. They are known to occasionally seize a fowl from the farm-yard. During the middle of the day, in the cold weather, they are said to soar very high in the air, and occasionally to disappear also in the manner of their eastern relatives, the *Buteo borealis*. They are said to be abundant and resident species in Washington Territory, having been found by Dr. Suckley quite numerous at Puget Sound, but scarcer on the Upper Columbia, east of the Cascade Mountains. It seems to be more daring than is common with the *borealis*, for Dr. Suckley states that while he was stationed at Fort Steila-coom he noticed that the poultry-yards were as much harassed by this Hawk as by the Goshawk, not hesitating to seize poultry from the very doors of the dwelling-houses.

Dr. Kennerly states that this Hawk was met with by him between the coast of Texas at Indianola, and the Rio Grande at El Paso del Norte. It seemed to feed indifferently upon reptiles, particularly lizards, and the smaller quadrupeds and birds.

Dr. Cooper states that the nests of this species are numerous in the valleys and on the lower mountains of California. They are generally built in the forks of a sycamore or other large trees, and formed of twigs pretty finely constructed, and with a very distinct cavity. Eggs, taken by Dr. Cooper near San Diego, were laid about the 20th of March, and were three in number. They measured 2.28 by 1.76 inches, were of a dull yellowish-white, with faint brown spots. While Dr. Cooper was climbing to the nest, the old birds darted towards him from a neighboring bluff, but when within a few feet of his head they turned away and did not attempt to make an assault.

Two eggs belonging to the variety *calurus* were obtained by Mr. E. Samuels near Petaluma, Cal., in 1856; measure 2.31 inches in length by 1.87 in breadth. The shape of one egg is an almost exact ovoid, slightly tending to a spheroid, one end being hardly perceptibly larger than the other. Its



ground-color is a very light buff, the spottings and markings giving to it the effect of a yellowish-white. It is marked over the entire surface with blotches, dashes, and lines of a light tint of a brown tending to vandyke. These are mixed with markings of a lighter purplish-brown. The markings, of both shades, are chiefly oblong in shape, and run with the length of the egg. They bear no resemblance to any eggs of the *B. borealis* that I have ever seen, and are unlike those of other Hawks so far as I am aware. It was built on the top of a large evergreen-oak, at least seventy feet from the ground, and was constructed entirely of large, coarse sticks, lined with a few stray feathers. The male bird was shot as it flew from the nest, which was so hidden by the thick branches that it would have escaped detection.

The black form of this species was first described by Mr. Cassin as *Buteo calurus*, in 1855, from a specimen procured by Dr. Henry near Fort Webster, New Mexico. In this plumage it was afterwards met with by Mr. Emanuel Samuels, near Petaluma, in California, who found it breeding, and was fortunate enough to secure the parent bird on its nest.

The nest was built near the top of an evergreen-oak, at the height of about sixty feet from the ground, and contained two eggs just on the point of hatching. It was constructed of sticks, and was lined with moss. Both birds were about the spot. The male bird, manifesting much more courage than his mate in resistance to the intruders, was shot. The female was wounded, but escaped.

One of these eggs measures 2.25 inches in length by 1.79 in breadth. Its capacity is considerably less than that of the specimens just described; its shape is a much more oblong-oval; one end is evidently more pointed than the other. Its ground-color is a dirty cream-white, covered, chiefly at the larger end, with blotches and smaller markings of a dark shade of a brown almost exactly corresponding with that known as vandyke-brown, with smaller markings and spottings of a lighter shade of the same. The latter are distributed at intervals over its entire surface.

A nest, found by Mr. Xantus near Fort Tejon, is stated by him to have been found in a swamp. It was built in a water-oak, was about fifteen feet from the ground. The nest was very large and was built of coarse sticks. It contained four eggs.

### *Buteo harlani* (AUDUBON).

#### HARLAN'S HAWK: "BLACK WARRIOR."

*Buteo harlani*, AUD. B. AM. 1831, pl. XXXVI; IN ORN. BIOG. I. 441. — BREWER & WILSON, AM. ORN. SYNOP. 1852, 684. *Buteo harlani*, BENAF. LIST, 1858, 3. — AUD. SYNOP. 1839, 6. — GRAY, LIST B. BRIT. MUS. 18. — DE KAY, ZOÖL. N. Y. II, 11. — STRICKL. ORN. SYN. I, 30. — CASS. BIRDS N. AM. 1858, 24 (adult, but not the description of young, which is that of *B. borealis*, var. *calurus*). — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 43. — GRAY, HAND LIST, I, 7 (under *B. borealis*). — RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Dec. 1870, 142. — COUES, KEY, 1872, 216.

**SP. CHAR.** Form strong and heavy, like *B. borealis*, but still more robust; tibial plumes unusually developed, long and loose, their ends reaching to or beyond the base of the toes; lateral toes nearly equal. Four outer primaries with inner webs cut. Dimensions: Wing, 14.25–15.75; tail, 8.80–10.00; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.75–3.25; middle toe, 1.50–1.70. Colors: Nearly uniform black, varying from a sooty to a carbonaceous tint, with more or less of concealed pure white. *Adult*. Tail confusedly mottled longitudinally, with grayish, dusky, and white, often tinged or mixed with rufous, the different shades varying in relative amount in different individuals; a subterminal band of black. *Young*. Tail grayish-brown, crossed by about nine very regular and sharply defined, broad bands of black, about equal in width to the gray ones.

*Adult male* (Lawrence, Kansas, Oct., 1871; in Collection of Kansas University). General color deep, almost carbonaceous, black, showing much exposed white on the head, neck, and breast, all the feathers of which are snowy white beneath the surface, the black being merely in the form of tear-shaped spots on the terminal portion of the feather; chin, lores, and front pure white; upper parts in general, the posterior lower parts and the lining of the wing, with the black unbroken, but all the feathers—except the under wing-coverts—more or less spotted with white beneath the surface, on a grayish ground; these spots being usually arranged in pairs on each side of the shaft, on the flanks; tail-coverts, above and below, spotted irregularly with bright rufous, in nearly equal amount with the black and white. Alulæ, primary coverts, and primaries, with quadrate spots of plumbeous on their outer webs, forming transverse bands; under surface of primaries plumbeous-gray except at ends, but much broken by coarse marbling of white, this prevailing anteriorly, where it is much confused, but posteriorly about equal with the grayish, and exhibiting a tendency to form quadrate spots. Tail, with the ground-color white, but this nearly hidden on the upper surface by a longitudinal mottling of dark and light ashy, this growing more uniform terminally, where it becomes slightly suffused with reddish and crossed by a subterminal, broad but broken and irregular, band of black, the tip again very narrowly grayish and reddish.



*Buteo harlani.*

Wing-formula, 4, 3, 5–2, 6; 1 = 10. Wing, 15.00; tail, 8.80; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.75; middle toe, 1.50; lateral toes equal. Plumage of the flanks, abdomen, tibiae, and crissum remarkably lengthened and lax, the latter reaching within two inches of the tip of the tail, and the tibial plumes reaching to the base of the toes.

*Adult female* (6,851, Rio Grande, lat. 32°; Dr. T. C. Henry, U. S. A.). Whole plumage purplish black, or chocolate-black, with a purplish lustre; feathers everywhere pure white at bases, this exposed, however, only on the occiput, or where the feathers are disarranged. Forehead, lores, and chin white. Secondaries and primaries more brown than other portions, crossed by distinct bands of black,—about six on the secondaries. Whole lining of the wing and upper tail-coverts continuous, unvariegated black. Under surface of the primaries ashy-white, more slaty terminally; ends with distinct, and other portions with obsolete mottled, bars of dusky. Tail ashy-brown on outer webs, white on inner; both with a confused, rather longitudinal mottling of blackish; terminally, there is a broad nearly continuous subterminal band indicated by blotches, these mixed very slightly with a rufous tinge. Primaries injured by shot, therefore proportions of the quills cannot be

determined. Wing 15.75; tail, 9.10; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 2.90; middle toe, 1.60; outer, 1.15; inner, 1.15.

*Young* (Phil. Acad. Coll.; San Antonio, Texas, 1860; Dr. A. L. Heermann). Like the preceding, but basal white rather more exposed, and somewhat fulvous on the breast; the sides, axillars, lining of the wing, and lower tail-coverts have very obsolete transverse spots of the same. Under surface of primaries unvariegated silvery white anterior to their emargination, beyond which they are more hoary, along the edge black, this portion with about five transverse spots of black. Tail grayish ashy-brown to the tip, crossed with about nine very sharply defined bands of black, of equal width with the gray ones. Lores grayish-white. Wing-formula, 4, 3, 5-2-6-7-8=1. Wing, 14.25; tail, 10.00; tarsus, 3.25; middle toe, 1.70.

HAB. Southern Mississippi Valley, from Louisiana (Aud.) and Texas (Mus. S. I.); north to Eastern Kansas (Coll. Kansas Univ.).

Localities quoted: Guatemala (SCLATER, Ibis I, 216 (?)); Arizona (COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 43).

There is not a doubt in my mind as to the propriety of separating this bird from any close relationship to the *B. borealis*, nor of the correctness of considering it the *B. harlani* of Audubon. It only can be referred to Audubon's plate and description, both of which agree perfectly with the younger plumage described.

The specimens Mr. Cassin describes as the "adult" *B. harlani* are really such; but those which he describes as the "young" are the young of the Western Red-tail (*B. borealis* var. *calurus*). The California specimens to which Mr. Cassin refers, as identified by Mr. Lawrence as *B. harlani*, are in reality the melanistic condition of *B. swainsoni*, or the "*insignatus*" of Cassin. The present bird appears to be restricted to Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and adjacent portions, north to Kansas, and probably Eastern Mexico.

HABITS. This Hawk was first described by Audubon from a pair obtained by him near St. Francisville, Louisiana. They had bred in that neighborhood for two seasons, were shy and difficult of approach, and for a long while eluded his pursuit. The female was shot while sailing over his head, and wounded in the wing. He endeavored to preserve it alive and to carry it as a present to the Zoölogical Society, but it refused all food and died in a few days. This specimen is now in the British Museum. The male bird was also obtained a few days later, and this too was brought to him yet alive but also wounded. It was even more fierce and wilder than the female, would erect the feathers on its head, open its bill, and prepare to strike with its talons when any object was brought near to it.

This species, though smaller than the Red-tail, to which he regarded it as allied, Audubon thought greatly superior to it in flight and daring. Its flight is described as rapid, greatly protracted, and so powerful as to enable it to seize the prey with apparent ease, or effect its escape from its stronger antagonist, the Red-tail, which pursued it on all occasions. It had been seen to pounce upon a fowl, kill it almost instantly, and afterwards drag it along the ground several hundred yards. It was not seen to prey on hares or squirrels, but seemed to evince a marked preference for poultry, partridges,

and the smaller species of wild duck. He saw none of the young, but was told that they appeared to be of a leaden-gray color at a distance, and at the approach of winter became as dark as their parents.

Mr. Dresser states that he noticed this bird on several occasions near San Antonio but was not fortunate enough to shoot one. He received one specimen that had been shot by a lad on the Medina River. He was informed by a man living near there, who was a good sportsman and a careful observer, that he had several times found their nests, and Dr. Heermann is said to have obtained the eggs there several years before. Dr. Coues did not meet with it in Arizona, where it probably, however, will yet be found. Specimens have been received from Mexico, as is stated by Cassin, and a Buzzard, which Mr. Salvin referred to this species, was seen by him near Dueñas, where it was by no means common.

A specimen of this species has recently been taken in Kansas, near Lawrence, as recorded by Professor Snow, and fully identified at the Smithsonian Institution.

### ***Buteo cooperi*, CASSIN.**

#### **COOPER'S RED-TAILED HAWK.**

*Buteo cooperi*, CASS. P. A. N. S. Philad. VIII, 1856, 253. In. Birds N. Am. 1858, 31, pl. xvi. — COOP. & SICK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, ii, 1860, 148. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 8. — RIDGWAY, P. A. N. S. Dec. 1870, 142. — COUES, Key, 1872, 43.

SP. CHAR. *Adult* (8,525, Santa Clara, California, Oct. 1856; Dr. J. G. Cooper). Head, neck, and whole lower parts white; feathers of the head and neck with medial longitudinal streaks of black, the white prevailing on the occiput and superciliary region, — the black predominating over the cheeks, forming a "mustache"; throat with fine lanceolate blackish streaks; sides of the breast with broader, more cuneate markings of the same; flanks with narrow, lanceolate stripes, these extending sparsely across the abdomen; tibiæ, and lower tail-coverts immaculate, the inner face of the former, however, with faint specks. Upper plumage in general dark plumbeous-brown, inclining to black on the back; plumbeous clearest on primaries, which are uniformly of this color, the inner ones inclining to fine cinereous. Scapulars and wing-coverts spattered with white beneath the surface. Rump black; upper tail-coverts white tinged with rufous, and with irregular, distant transverse bars of blackish. Tail with light rufous prevailing, but this broken up by longitudinal daubs and washes of cinereous, and darker mottlings running longitudinally on both webs; basally, the ground-color approaches white; tips white, and a distinct, but very irregular, subterminal band of black, into which the longitudinal mottlings melt; outer webs of lateral feathers entirely cinereous, and without the black band. Under side of the wing white, with a large black space on the



8525.  
*Buteo cooperi*



lining near the edge; under surface of primaries white anterior to their emargination, finely mottled with ashy, and with indistinct transverse bands terminally. Fourth quill longest; third shorter than fifth; second equal to sixth; first equal to tenth. Wing, 15.75; tail, 9.10; tarsus, 3.25; middle toe, 1.70.

This remarkable Hawk is certainly not to be referred to the *B. borealis*, as has been suggested, the proportions of the two being quite different, while there is no similarity of plumage. In plumage, *Buteo cooperi* very closely resembles the adult of *Archibuteo ferrugineus*, and the suggestion has been made that it is a hybrid between this and the Red-tail. The markings of the head, and the general tint of the upper parts, are almost precisely as in the former bird, while the tail is exactly similar in character of markings, the only difference being the more reddish tinge and black subterminal band, which are, in fact, the only characters approximating it to the *Buteo borealis*. The feet are, however,



*Buteo cooperi* (adult).

very much stronger than in the *A. ferrugineus*, while the tarsus is very much longer than in *borealis*, scarcely more so, however, than in the former. The black patch on the lining of the wing, however, is a feature shared by neither of these birds, being one entirely peculiar to the *Buteo cooperi*. But one specimen — the one described above — is known to have been obtained. Mr. J. A. Allen, in his "Notes on some of the Rarer Birds of Massachusetts" (see "American Naturalist," Vol. III, p. 518, and a separate paper, p. 14), mentions the capture of this species near Cambridge, Mass., but probably did not actually see it. The specimen in question being in the possession of Mr. C. J. Maynard, he kindly sent it to the Smithsonian Institution. On examination, it proved to be a young *Buteo lineatus*, differing from the average in somewhat lighter colors.

HAB. Santa Clara County, California.

The nearest ally of this species is the *B. ferox*, of the Palæarctic Realm (Northern Asia and Africa and portions of Europe), which has exactly the size and proportions of the present bird, and in certain stages a very similar plumage. I have not seen an unquestionable adult of *B. ferox*, but specimens almost adult, in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History, from the Himalaya Mountains, come remarkably close to *B. cooperi* in plumage, having like it a black spot on the under side of the wing, but apparently on the under primary-coverts, instead of on the lining, near the edge; the tail is also very similarly colored. Upon the whole, I consider the *B. cooperi* to be a good species, with *B. ferox*, Gmelin, of Asia, etc., as its nearest relative, unless it proves to be a hybrid between *Buteo borealis* and *Archibuteo ferrugineus*, which I think is less likely to be the case.

**HABITS.** A single individual of this bird was shot by Dr. Cooper near Mountain View in Santa Clara Valley, California, in November, 1855. It still remains unique in collections, and during his more recent explorations Dr. Cooper has not been able to obtain any additional specimens or see any like it. Those he mistook for this bird and to which he refers in his report on the birds of Washington Territory, he is satisfied were only the *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. The suggestion of Sclater, that the bird is not distinct from *Buteo erythronotus*, is negatived, according to Mr. Ridgway, by the fact of their actually belonging to different sections of the genus.

#### GENUS **ARCHIBUTEO**, BREHM.

*Archibuteo*, BREHM, 1828. (Type, *Falco lagopus*, Gmelin.)

*Triorchis*, KAUT, 1829 (nec. LEACH, 1816). (Same type.)

*Bulactes*, LESS. 1831. (Same type.)

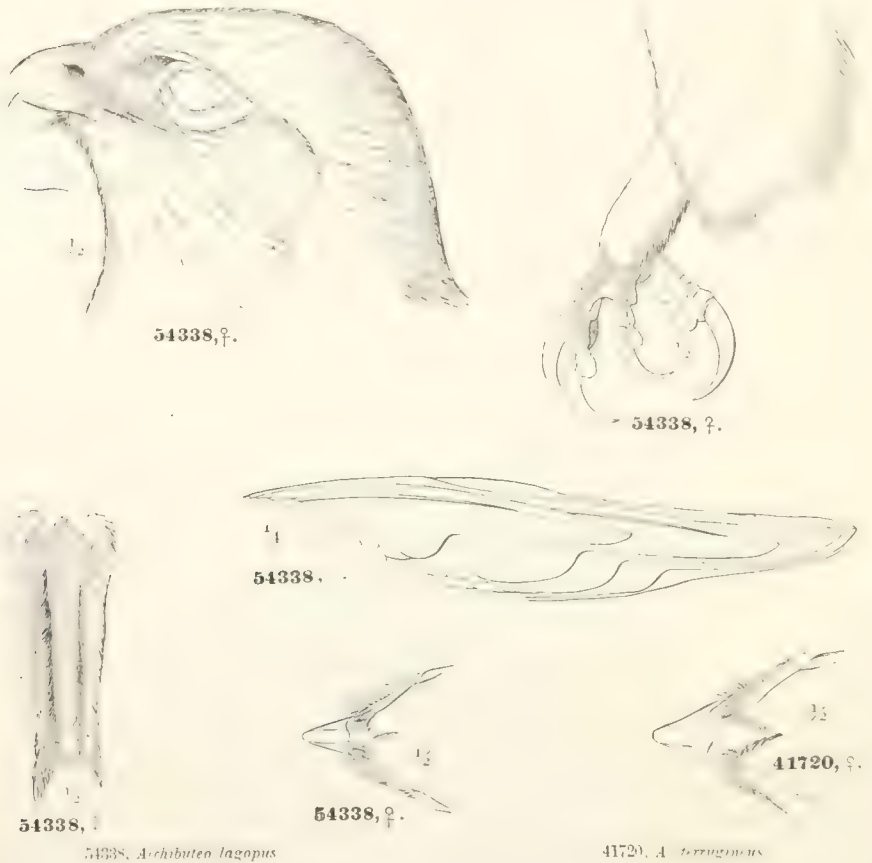
? *Butaquila*, HODGS. 1844. (Type, *Butaquila strophilata*, HODGS.)

? *Hemiaëtus*, HODGS. 1844. (Same type.)

**CHAR.** Similar to *Buteo*, but bill and feet weaker, wings longer, and tarsi feathers in front, to the toes. Bill small, compressed anteriorly, but very broad through the gape; upper outline of the cere ascending basally; nostril broadly oval, nearly horizontal. Tarsus densely feathered in front and on the sides down to the base of the toes; naked behind, where covered with irregular scales. Tarsus more than twice as long as the middle toe; basal half of the toes covered with small scales; outer toe longer than the inner; claws long, strongly curved, acute. Feathering of the head and neck normal. Wing very long; the third to fourth quill longest; first shorter than seventh; outer four or five with inner webs deeply emarginated. Tail moderate, rounded. Plumage full and soft.

The relationship of this well-marked genus appears to be nearest to *Buteo* and *Circus*, with an approach to *Circæus* in character of the plumage, especially the wing. The Old World species, belonging to the subgenus (?) *Butaquila*, numbering two or three, according to different authors, I have not seen, and consequently cannot say whether they are really congeneric with the American species or not. Exclusive of these, two species are known,

both of which belong to North America, one of them *A. lagopus* being found also in Europe and Africa. These differ very considerably from each other, in the details of external structure, probably quite as much as they do



from the Asiatic forms above mentioned. The following synopsis will express the differences between the two North American species, and between the American and European races of the one common to both continents.

#### Species and Races.

**COMMON CHARACTERS.** Tail more or less white basally; inner webs of the primaries white, without bars, anterior to their emargination. Head and neck with longitudinal streaks of whitish and dusky (except in melanistic individuals of *lagopus* var. *sancti-johannis*).

1. ***A. ferrugineus*.** Wing, 15.90–17.60; tail, 9.50–11.00; culmen, 1.00–1.20; tarsus, 3.10–3.45; middle toe, 1.40–1.65. Bill wide, the base very broad and depressed. Beneath, continuous pure white, without conspicuous spots, except sometimes a few scattered ones along the sides and across the abdomen; breast immaculate, or with only narrow shaft-streaks. Upper parts always with more or less rufous. *Adult.* Upper parts and tibiae

fine rufous, the former with longitudinal spots, the latter with transverse bars, of back. In. Secondary and primary plumbeous, the latter with a hoary cast. Tail white, washed with pale ash, and more or less stained along the edges of the feathers (longitudinally) with light rufous; sometimes with a badly defined indication of a dusky subterminal bar. *Young*. Above dark grayish-brown, with only the borders of the feathers rufous or ochraceous; tibiae white, with sparse transverse spots of dark brown. Tail white only on basal third, and on inner webs, the remaining portion brownish-ashy, with several more or less distinct darker bands. *Hab*. Western North America, from Arizona, California, and Oregon, east to the Great Plains.

2. *A. lagopus*. Wing, 15.75-18.20; tail, 8.70-10.50; culmen, .80-1.00; tarsus, 2.30-2.80; middle toe, 1.30-1.50. Bill narrow, compressed; beneath more or less spotted with dusky, which usually predominates; breast with large spots of dusky; no rufous on upper parts, nor on tibiae. *Adult*. Whitish, with transverse dusky spots. On the lower parts, the dusky spots or cloudings, largest and most suffused anteriorly (on the jugulum and breast). Terminal portion of the tail with several irregular dusky bands. (Sometimes almost entirely black, varying in shade from a brownish to a carbonaceous tint!) *Young*. Above grayish-brown, longitudinally spotted with dusky, and more or less edged with pale ochraceous, or rusty whitish. Beneath ochraceous-white, with the spots largest and most suffused posteriorly, forming a wide, more or less continuous belt across the abdomen; markings on the jugulum and breast longitudinal. Terminal portion of the tail without transverse bars.

Spots on the jugulum, in the adult, suffused into a nearly uniform patch. Never melanistic (?). *Hab*. Europe . . . . . var. *lagopus*.<sup>1</sup>

Spots on the jugulum, in the adult, scattered. Frequently melanistic.

*Hab*. North America . . . . . var. *sancti-johannis*.

<sup>1</sup> *Archibuteo lagopus* (BRUNN.), GRAY. *Falco lagopus*, BRUNN. Orn. Bol. p. 4, sp. 15 (1764); PENN., GMEL., LATH., SIEMSS., DAUD., SHAW, NAUM., MEYER. *Buteo lagopus*, STEPH. et AUT. *Buteo lagopus*, BONAP., GRAY, BAILLY, MOER., RED. II. *Archibuteo lagopus*, GRAY, Gen. B. (ed. 2), p. 3; 1841, et AUT. (Not of American writers, nor when used for the American bird.) *Hab*. North and Central Europe; Northern Africa.

A comparison of the American birds with series of sixteen European specimens shows constant differences in the birds of the two continents, — quite enough to establish a difference of race, although not of specific value. The European bird is much the darker beneath, the blackish-brown spots on jugulum and breast being blended, or suffused, so as to give the predominating tint to this region.

These differences, though constant and quite appreciable on comparison, are very slight, while the proportions are about the same. A young specimen of the European style differs from American in entire absence of rufous tinge to white of head, neck, and lower parts, less complete band across the abdomen, immaculate white ear-coverts, cheeks, and throat; the tibiae and tarsi are also much more thickly spotted than in the American young; there is also more white on base of outer surface of primaries.

*List of Specimens examined*. — Nat. Mus., 6; Philad. Acad., 8; Bost. Soc., 2. Total, 16.

*Measurements*. — ♂. Wing, 16.00; tail, 8.70; culmen, .80; tarsus, 2.30; middle toe, 1.30. Specimens, 1. ♀. Wing, 18.20; tail, 9.75; culmen, .95; tarsus, 2.60; middle toe, 1.50. Specimens, 1.



**Archibuteo ferrugineus** LIGHT**CALIFORNIA SQUIRREL HAWK.**

*Archibuteo ferrugineus*, LIGHT, BULL. TRANS. 1838, p. 429. — *Leucopus ferrugineus*, FRASER, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1844, p. 37. — *Archibuteo ferrugineus*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. pl. 3, 1844. — CASS, B. of Cal. & Tex. 1854, p. 104; BIRDS N. AM. 1858, 31. — BONAP. CONSP. AV. p. 18. — STRICKL. ORN. SYN. I, 41, 1855. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. VII, 31, 1857. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, ii, 149, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 10, 1866 (anatomical notes). — BLAKIST. Ibis, III, 1861, 318 (Saskatchewan; eggs). — FRASER, PR. Z. S. 1844, 37. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 10, 1869. — *Archibuteo regalis*, GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. p. 39, 1844; Gen. B. fol. pl. vi.

SE. CHAR. *Adult male* (41,719, Fort Whipple, Arizona, Dec. 2, 1864; Dr. Coues). — General color of head and neck white; each feather with a medial streak of black, these growing broader posteriorly, and along the upper border of the ear-coverts are so blended as to form an indistinct stripe back from the eye. Entire lower parts (except tibia) and whole under surface of the wing continuous pure white; breast with a faint tinge of delicate ochraceous; tibia and tarsus reddish-white, tinged with or inclining to deep ferruginous on upper portion, and with numerous transverse bars of darker ferruginous and blackish; sides of the breast with a very few hair-like shaft-streaks of black; flanks with a few distant, dark ferruginous bars; axillars with two or three cordate spots of ferruginous near ends; feathers of the lining next the body, with blended irregularly hastate spots of rufous; under primary coverts shading into cinereous on terminal half, and with obscure broadly hastate spots of a darker shade of the same; primaries slaty beyond their emargination, deepening gradually toward their tips. Back, scapulars, and lesser and middle wing-coverts fine rufous, each feather with a broad median, longitudinal spot of brownish plumbeous-black, these on the back rather exceeding the rufous; longer wing-coverts and secondaries ashy-umber, with very obsolete transverse bands of darker; primary coverts more ashy, and more distinctly banded; primaries fine chalky cinereous, this lightest on outer four; shafts pure white. Rump nearly uniform brownish-black, — posterior feathers rufous with medial black blotches; upper tail-coverts snowy white on outer webs, inner webs more rufous; a few concealed blackish transverse spots. Tail pale pearly ash, becoming white basally, and with a wash of dilute rufous along the edge of outer webs; inner webs white, with an ashy tinge thrown in longitudinal washes; outer feathers nearly white, with faint pale ashy longitudinal mottlings; shafts of tail-feathers pure white. Fourth quill longest; third but little shorter; second very much shorter than fifth; first intermediate between seventh and eighth. Wing, 16.75; tail, 9.20; tarsus, 2.95; middle toe, 1.35.

"Length, 22.50; extent, 54.50. Iris clear light yellow; cere, edges of commissure, and feet bright yellow; bill very dark bluish horn; mouth, purplish flesh-color, livid bluish along edges."

*Adult female* (41,720, Fort Whipple; Dr. Coues). Almost exactly like the male, but black spots on rufous portions of upper parts much restricted, forming oblong spots in the middle of each feather; rump almost entirely rufous, variegated, however, with black. Longitudinal lines on breast more distinct; transverse bars on flanks and abdomen more numerous; tibial and tarsal feathers wholly deep rufous or ferruginous, the bars more blackish. Third and fourth quills equal and longest; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first equal to eighth. Wing, 17.25; tail, 9.75; tarsus, 2.95; middle toe, 1.40. "Length, 23.25; extent, 56.50. Iris light ochraceous-brown."

*Young female* (6,883, Los Angeles, California; Dr. Heermann). General plumage above, grayish-brown; interscapulars, scapulars, lesser and middle wing-coverts, and feathers of

Head and neck edged laterally with light rufous; secondaries passing broadly into pale ash at ends; primaries slaty-brown, with obscure darker bands; no appearance of these, however, on secondaries; rump entirely blackish-brown; upper tail-coverts wholly white. Tail hoary slate, basal third (or more) white, the junction of the two colors irregular and broken; tip obscurely paler; feathers obscurely blackish along edges, and with obsolete transverse spots of the same; white prevailing on inner webs. Beneath entirely pure white, scarcely variegated; tibiae and tarsi with a few scattered small transverse spots of blackish; flanks with larger, more cordate spots of the same. (Breeds in this plumage.)

HAB. Western North America from California to the Missouri, and from the Saskatchewan to Texas.

Localities: Texas (Fort Stockton), (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 325); Western Arizona (COUES, Pr. A. N. S., 1866, 40).

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

Nat. Mus., 10; Philad. Acad., 2; Boston Soc., 2; Coll. R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 16.

## Measurements.

Sex.	Wing		Tail	Culmen	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	15.90	17.00	9.50—10.50	1.00—1.18	3.10—3.45	1.40—1.50	6
♀	17.00—17.60		10.50—11.00	1.08—1.20	3.20—3.40	1.60—1.65	6

The variations in this species are very slight, and never sufficient to mislead the student. One specimen (26,590, ♂; Fort Tejon, Cal.; J. Xantus) differs from the adults described in having the abdomen quite closely barred, the streaks on the breast distinct, the rufous above tinging the secondary coverts, and spreading over the upper tail-coverts, while the tibiae and tarsi are of a very deep ferruginous, — the bars black.

In a specimen from the Platte (5,577, ♂; W. S. Wood) white prevails on the tibiae, the bars being dark ferruginous upon a white ground; the flanks are similarly marked, the other lower parts, however, immaculate; there is much concealed white on the scapulars. The rufous tinge of the tail is very deep, while there is a transverse series of black blotches, indicating the course of a transverse band near the end.

HABITS. The California Squirrel Hawk appears to be an exclusively western species, occurring as far to the east as Nebraska and Kansas, and as far to the north as the Plains of the Saskatchewan and Washington Territory. It occurs as far to the southeast as Texas, and has been found also in New Mexico and in Arizona.

This species was first noticed and described in a paper on the natural history of California published in the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Berlin, in 1838, by Professor Lichtenstein, a Prussian naturalist. It was first brought to the notice of American naturalists by Mr. Edward M. Kern, of Philadelphia, who accompanied Colonel Fremont in his expedition of 1846, and who brought home specimens.

Dr. Coues found it quite abundant about Fort Whipple, where it was especially numerous in the winter, and where also he thinks it probable that it is a permanent resident. He found it more generally frequenting mead-

ows, plains, and the more open woods. He usually found their stomachs filled with arvicolæ and other small quadrupeds peculiar to that country. It could always be readily recognized by its conspicuously white under

parts, contrasted with its dark chesnut tibiae and reddish back.

At San Pedro, on the southern coast of California, he again found this Hawk very common. It there alights very freely on the ground, where he often observed it. At Fort Whipple he only saw it on trees. At San Pedro its choosing thus the bare plain may have been a matter of necessity.

Dr. Kennerly observed a single individual of this species in a "prairie-dog-town" of large extent, near Fort Davis. It was intently



*Archibuteo ferrugineus.*

watching at the hole of one of these animals. While in this position, it was observed to strike at the prairie-dog with its claw, when one of these animals protruded its head. As it was very intently watching its prey, it was easily approached and shot.

Dr. Heermann observed this Hawk in the valley of the Sacramento, where he thought it rather rare, but afterwards, during his connection with the government surveying party under Lieutenant Williamson, in the southern part of the State, he found it very abundant. On one occasion five or six individuals were in view at the same moment, among the mountains, sixty miles east of San Diego. It was there much more abundant than any other species. As large tracts of that country frequented by these birds are entirely without trees, they alight on the ground or on some slightly elevated tuft of grass, or a stone, where they sit patiently for hours watching for their prey, which was always found to consist of mice and other small quadrupeds. In one instance the crop was found filled with the remains of a ground squirrel.

Dr. Heermann states that he found the nest and eggs of this bird on the Consumnes River. The nest was in the fork of an oak, and was composed of

coarse twigs and lined with grasses: the eggs were two in number, white with faint brown dashes. The nest was placed in the centre of a large bunch of mistletoe, and would have escaped notice had not the Hawk, in flying, betrayed her retreat.

The eggs, however, differ essentially in size from those mentioned by Capt. Blakiston, and it is quite possible that Dr. Heermann was mistaken in his identification. One of these eggs was figured in the North American Oölogy, and resembles much more an egg of Swainson's Buzzard than any egg I have since seen of this species.

The specimens procured by Mr. Kerr were taken in the Tulare Valley, in January, 1846, and are stated in his notes to have been remarkably fat, and in excellent condition generally, so that some of his party shot these birds whenever opportunity offered, for the mess-kettle, and considered them very good eating.

Dr. Cooper states that in the spring and fall these Hawks abound in Southern California, migrating in summer through the interior plains of the Columbia and the Platte Rivers, at least as far north as the Dalles. He found it in winter at Martinez, and is of the opinion that few migrate beyond the State. It was usually to be seen slowly sailing over the plains, sometimes in circles, and occasionally pouncing down obliquely on its prey, which consists principally of the large ground squirrel. It rarely, if ever, attacks poultry, and limits its prey to wild animals, and is therefore a decided friend to the farmer.

Capt. Blakiston met with this bird breeding between the north and the south branches of the Saskatchewan River, April 30, 1858. The nest was placed in an aspen-tree, twenty feet from the ground, was composed of sticks, two and a half feet across, and lined with buffalo wool. The eggs were four in number. Those taken from another nest near the same locality were five in number. This nest was in a tree, and was only ten feet above a lake. Two eggs were taken by Mr. Bourgeau on the Saskatchewan Plains, July 9. These differences in seasons, from April to July, are suggestive either of great variations in the time of nesting, or of there being two broods in a season. The eggs obtained by Capt. Blakiston measured, one 2.60 by 2.00 inches, the other 2.50 by 1.95 inches, and are described as having been white with large distinct blotches and smaller specks of two shades of brown. The other was more obscurely blotched with a paler brown, and at the same time freckled all over.

An egg of this species taken by H. R. Durkee near Gilmer in Wyoming Territory, May 9, 1870, measures 2.43 inches in length by 1.95 in breadth. The ground-color is a creamy white, over which are very uniformly distributed on every part of the egg, in nearly equal proportions, blotches, slashes, and smaller markings of a dark burnt umber. The nest from which this egg was taken was composed of sticks, and was placed among rocks. The nest contained but one egg. The parent bird was secured, and there was no question as to identification.



**Archibuteo lagopus, var. sancti-johannis** PENN.**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK; BLACK HAWK.**

*Falco sancti-johannis*, PENN. Acad. Zool. pl. ix, 1785. — Gmel. Syst. Nat. p. 273, 1789. — LATH. Index Orn. p. 34, 1790; Syn. I, 77; Gen. Hist. I, 276. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 105, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 150, 1809. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 32. — AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 381, 1831. — GIRAUD, B. Long Island, p. 6, 1844. — KERR, Trans. Gmel. II, 507, 1792. *Buteo sancti-johannis*, JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 287, 288, 1832. — NUTT. Man. Orn. U. S. & Canad. p. 98, 1833. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 7, pl. ii, fig. 3, 1844. *Buteo sancti-johannis*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 1), i, 323, 1829. — BONAP. List, p. 3, 1838. *Archibuteo sancti-johannis*, GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 2, 1844; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 39, 1844. — BONAP. Consp. Av. p. 18, 1850. — CASS. Birds Calif. & Tex. p. 103, 1854. — BLAKIST. Ibis, III, 1861, 318 (eggs). — KAUP, Monog. Falc. Cont. Orn. 1850, p. 75. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 40, 1855. — BREWER, Oölogy, 1857, 34, pl. iii, f. 28. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 33. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 10, 1869. *Falco spadiceus*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. p. 273, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 27, 1790; Gen. Hist. I, 279. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 109, 1800. *Buteo spadiceus*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, 34, 1807. *Falco lagopus*, WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xxxiii, f. 1, 1808. — BREW. (WILS.) Am. Orn. Syn. 648, 1852. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 32; Isis, 1852, 1138. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. clxvi, 422, 1831; Orn. Biog. II, 377; V, 217. *Buteo lagopus*, RICH. Faun. Bor. Am. II, pl. xxviii, 1831. — AUD. Synop. p. 8, 1839. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 77, 1831. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, p. 54, 1832. — NUTT. Man. Orn. p. 97, 1833. — PEAB. B. Mass. p. 79, 1841. *Archibuteo lagopus*, CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, p. 32. — BREWER, Oölogy, 1857, 36, pl. iii, f. 29. — COOP. & STUCK. P. R. R. Rept. VII, ii, 148, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 16, 1866. *Falco niger*, WILS. Am. Orn. pl. liii, figs. 1 and 2, 1808. — LATH. Gen. Hist. pp. 256, 257, 1821. *Buteo niger*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. ii, p. 47, 1815. — VIG. Zool. Journ. I, 340. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, pp. 79, 80, 1831. — CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), i, 326, 1829. *Buteo ater*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. Nat. Hist. IV, 482, 1866; Enc. Méth. III, 1227.

*a. Normal plumage.*

SP. CHAR. *Adult male* (43,073, Fort Resolution, June; J. Lockhart). Ground-color of the upper parts dull umber-cinereous, this more rufous on the shoulders, and dull white on nape, scapulars, inner secondaries, and upper tail-coverts; rump entirely black, feathers bordered with whitish. All the feathers above with central oblong or irregular spots of black, this color predominating on top of head, and forming transverse bands across the wing-coverts and secondaries; upper tail-coverts pure white, each marked with an exceedingly irregular transverse spot of black. Tail white on basal two thirds, and narrowly, but sharply, tipped with the same; subterminal portion pale mottled cinereous, with a very broad zone of black next the terminal white, and anterior to this three narrower and more irregular bands of the same. Primaries blackish-cinereous, with obsolete darker bands. Ground-color of head and lower parts dull white; cheeks thickly streaked with black; ear-coverts and throat more sparsely streaked; forehead and sub-orbital region plain whitish. Breast with large, longitudinal but very irregular, oblong spots of dark brown, these largest and somewhat confluent laterally; lower part of breast with much less numerous and less longitudinal spots; tibiae strongly tinged with rusty, and with tarsus, abdomen, crissum, and flanks having irregular transverse spots of blackish-brown; lower tail-coverts unvariegated. Lining of wing white, with numerous spots of black, these becoming more rusty towards the axillars; a large space of continuous clear black, covering the under primary coverts and the coverts immediately anterior; under surface of primaries and secondaries pure white, the former becoming black at ends, the latter ashy; no bars, except toward shafts, of the latter. Fourth quill longest; third

equal to fifth; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first equal to eighth. Wing, 16.50; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.50; middle toe, 1.30; bill, 1.30 and .90.

*Adult female* (28,156, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. Krider). Generally similar to the male. On head and nape, however, the yellowish-white predominates, the central black being much reduced; on the other hand, there is less white on the upper parts, the dull cinereous-drab being much more evenly spread; darker markings less conspicuous. Tail white only at the base, the remaining portion being pale cinereous-drab crossed with four or five distinct, very regular bands of black, the tip being very broadly ashy. Flanks with ground-color light umber-drab, and marked with transverse bands of black. Lower surface generally as in the male; tail-coverts with two or three blackish spots, apparently out of place. Fourth quill longest; fifth much shorter than third; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first intermediate between seventh and eighth. Wing, 17.00; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.40; middle toe, 1.30; bill, 1.30 and .85.

*Young* (25,934, United States). Upper surface generally light umber, becoming lighter on scapulars and middle wing-coverts, but showing nowhere any trace of spots or bands; wings, scapulars, and back with blackish shaft-streaks; primaries approaching black toward ends, becoming white basally; upper tail-coverts white, with a hastate stripe of brown along shaft; tail, basal half white, terminal half plain drab, becoming darker terminally, the tip narrowly white. Head, neck, and lower plumage in general, white stained with ochraceous, this deepest on tibiae and tarsi; head and neck streaked with dark brown, ear-coverts almost immaculate; breast with oblong spots of clear brown; flanks, abdomen, and anal region continuous uniform rich purplish vandyke-brown, forming conspicuous transverse belt; tibiae and tarsi scarcely varied, the few markings longitudinal; lower tail-coverts immaculate. Under side of wing much as in adult; black area, however, more extended; lining much tinged with rufous, and with longitudinal streaks of dark brown.

*b. Melanistic condition.*

*Adult male* (28,153, Philadelphia; J. Krider). General plumage blackish-brown, the head streaked by whitish edges of the feathers; wing-coverts, secondaries, primaries, and tibial plumes paler terminally; tarsi mottled with whitish; upper and lower tail-coverts tipped obscurely with white. Tail narrowly tipped with dull white, and with about five very obsolete pale ashy bands. Lining of wing black, spotted with white near edge; whole under surface of the primaries pure white anterior to their emargination, beyond which they are black. Third and fourth quills equal and longest; second intermediate between fifth and sixth; first shorter than seventh. Wing, 16.00; tail, 8.85; tarsus, 2.45; middle toe, 1.25.

*Adult female* (12,008, Philadelphia; C. Drexler). Continuous pure carbonaceous black; forehead white; occiput same beneath surface. Tail paler at tip, and crossed with four ill-defined though continuous bands of ashy white, the last of which is distant over two and a half inches from the tip; lower tail-coverts with a few white spots. Whole lining of wing glossy coal black; under surface of primaries, anterior to their emargination, white mottled with ashy. Fourth and fifth quills equal and longest; third only a little shorter; second a little longer than sixth; first intermediate between seventh and eighth. Wing, 16.50; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.50; middle toe, 1.20.

*Young*. Similar, but the tail dusky, growing whitish toward the base, and without any bars.

**HAB.** Whole of North America north of Mexico, but breeding northward of the United States.

**Localities:** Western Arizona (COUES, Pr. A. N. S., 1866, 48).

LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 44; Philadelphia Academy, 17; Boston Society, 1; Museum Com-  
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parative Zoölogy, Cambridge, 10; Cab. G. N. Lawrence, 6; Coll. W. S. Brewer, 3; R. Ridgway, 4. Total, 85.

*Measurements.*

<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Culmen.</i>	<i>Tarsus.</i>	<i>Middle Toe.</i>	<i>Specimens.</i>
♂	15.80 - 16.80	9.80 - 10.00	.85 - .90	2.75 - 2.80	1.35	18
♀	16.15 - 17.70	9.00 - 10.50	.90 - 1.00	2.80 -	1.30 - 1.40	8
	15.75 - 18.00	9.00 - 11.00	.80 - 1.00	2.15 - 3.00	1.20 - 1.50	40

That all the North American Rough-legged Hawks, whether light or dark (excepting of course the *A. ferrugineus*), are one species, and also one race, there appears to be but little doubt; a critical comparison and minute examination of about one hundred specimens also proves that the dark plumage, usually separated as "*A. sancti-johannis*," has nothing to do with age, sex, season, or locality, but that, as in *Buteo borealis* var. *calurus* and *B. swainsoni*, it is a purely individual condition, black birds being black, and light birds being light, from the first plumage till death. Each phase has its young and adult stages distinctly marked, as the above diagnoses point out. It however appears to be the fact that certain regions are frequented more by birds of one color than another, and of the many hundreds of specimens sent from the Arctic regions to the Smithsonian Institution by officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, none exhibited the blackish plumage which, on the other hand, appears most abundant about Hudson's Bay.

The North American birds are distinguishable from European ones (var. *lagopus*) by the characters given in the synopsis on p. 1619, and description, on p. 1624.

**HABITS.** The Rough-legged Hawk of North America bears so close a resemblance to the European species, in all respects, — plumage, habits, and eggs, — that the two are generally considered to be identical. The distribution of the American variety appears to be nearly throughout the entire Union, from the Atlantic to the coast of the Pacific, and from New Mexico to the Arctic regions. It was taken at Fort Steilacoom, and at Shoal-water Bay in Washington Territory, by Drs. Suckley and Cooper. It was not seen by Mr. Dresser in Texas nor by Dr. Woodhouse in New Mexico, but it was taken near Zuñi by Dr. Kennerly, was found from Mimbres to the Rio Grande by Dr. Henry, and obtained near Fort Fillmore by Captain Pope, and at Fort Massachusetts by Dr. Peters.

The Rough-legged Hawk is quite abundant in spring and fall in the neighborhood of Niagara Falls. In the fall of 1872, Mr. James Booth met with a pair of this species, accompanied by their young. The latter were fully grown. The male bird was in very black plumage, while the female was unusually light, the pair thus presenting well-marked illustrations of the two types, the black *sancti-johannis* and the common *lagopus*. The parents were secured, and are now in the museum of the Boston Society of Natural History. One of the young was also shot, but I did not see it.

It was said to have been only a little less dark plumaged than the male parent.

It is very abundant throughout the Arctic regions, where it was found breeding in the Anderson River country by Mr. MacFarlane, from whom were received valuable notes and a large number of specimens of birds and eggs. It was observed generally by Dr. Richardson's party, but owing to its extreme wariness only a single specimen was obtained. Richardson noted its arrival in the fur countries in April or May, and gives the time of its departure as early in October.

Dr. Kennerly mentions finding this Hawk quite abundant in the vicinity of the Pueblo Zuni, where it confined itself in the neighborhood of the stream, watching eagerly for ducks, which seemed to be its favorite prey.



*Archibuteo lagopus* (Europe).

Dr. Cooper found a large number of these Buzzards on a low point near the sea-coasts, at Shoalwater Bay, Washington Territory, in October. This point was covered with small pines, on the dead tops of which they were observed sitting in the manner of owls. Occasionally one would dart down after a mouse, and alight a short distance off. At times they would call to each other with a loud scream, but they usually sat motionless and silent for hours together. Some remained there throughout the winter, and he had no doubt that a few build near the mouth of the Columbia, where he saw young birds in July. In California, the same writer states, this species is only a winter visitor, and has never been observed by him south of Santa Clara Valley.

Dr. Coues mentions the taking of a single specimen of this bird in the Territory of Arizona in the winter, but no others were observed.

Audubon never met with this species south of North Carolina nor west of the Alleghanies. He regarded it as a sluggish bird, confining itself to the meadows and low grounds bordering the rivers and salt marshes, where its principal food appeared to be moles, mice, and other small quadrupeds. He has never known it to attack a duck on the wing, although it will occasionally pursue a wounded one. Except when alarmed, it flies low and sedately, and manifests none of the daring courage or vigor so conspicuous in most Hawks. They are also described as somewhat crepuscular in habit, watching



for their food long after sunset, and Mr. Richardson speaks of their hunting for their prey "by the subdued daylight which illuminates even the midnight hours in the high parallels of latitude." For these nocturnal hunts it is well fitted by the softness of its plumage, which renders its flight noiseless, like that of the more nocturnal birds.

These birds were once quite abundant in the low lands and marshes in the vicinity of Boston, but are now comparatively rare. They were abundant during October and November, and again in April. They usually kept on or



*Archibuteo sanctirostris* (black plumage).

near the ground, appeared to feed chiefly on small quadrupeds or reptiles, were never known to molest the poultry-yard, or even to destroy other birds.

They were very wary, and when approached with a gun would slowly and deliberately move off to a safer distance. Wilson found them quite abundant, during the winter months, in the meadows on the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, near Philadelphia, where they are still common. Though rendered very shy by the frequent attempts made to shoot them, they would never fly far at a time, usually from one tree to another, making a loud squealing noise as they arose. They all disappeared early in April.

He also speaks of them as common during winter in the lower parts of Maryland, as well as in the extensive meadows below Newark, N. J. He mentions having often seen this Hawk coursing over the surface of meadows long after sunset, and many times in pairs. They roost near these low grounds, and take their station at daybreak near a ditch, watching with patient vigilance for their prey.

Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall appear to have known nothing in regard to the breeding of the Rough-legged Hawk. A pair was seen by Richardson at their nest, which was built of sticks, and on a lofty tree standing on a low moist alluvial point of land, in a bend of the Saskatchewan; but they were too wary to be shot, and he makes no mention of their eggs.

My nephews, H. R. and F. H. Storer, found a pair of Rough-legged Hawks nesting on a rocky cliff on the coast of Labrador, near the harbor of Bras d'Or. The nest was very rudely constructed of sticks, and placed on a high rock directly over the water, inaccessible from below, but readily approached from above. It contained three young birds and an egg. The young Hawks were just ready to fly, and all scrambled out as the nest was approached, and rolled the egg to the bottom of the cliff, but without injuring it. The nest contained four or five large rats peculiar to that region, collected by the old birds for their young. The old birds were in the light plumage. At the same time a young bird was taken alive from another nest by one of the sailors of their party, which was quite black even in its immature dress, and strikingly different from the young just mentioned.

Mr. MacFarlane's very complete and careful notes mention, in detail, no less than fifty-eight nests of this species as procured and identified by his party. Of these, forty-six were built on trees, generally spoken of as being large pines, and usually about twenty feet from the ground. Twelve nests were found built on the edge of steep cliffs of shaly mud on the banks of creeks, rivers, and lakes.

The nests that were taken from trees are described as having been built in a crotch, not far from the top, and to have been formed externally of dry twigs, sticks, and small branches, warmly lined with down, feathers, and fine hay. Those found upon cliffs and high river-banks were made of similar materials, but usually with a smaller base of sticks, and a greater supply of hay, moss, and other soft materials. The number of eggs varied from three to five, never more than the latter, and were at times in differing stages of incubation in the same nest. Whenever the nest was approached, the parent birds always manifested great uneasiness, and uttered vociferous screams of distress. The eggs were generally found from the 27th of May to the 25th of June. Those taken after the 20th of June usually contained well-developed embryos. The species was met with by Mr. MacFarlane in great abundance in various localities,—near Fort Anderson, lower down on the Anderson River, near the Arctic coast, and in the vicinity of Rendezvous Lake.

One of the Indians collecting for Mr. MacFarlane informed him that on the 9th of June he discovered the nest of one of these Hawks on a ledge of shaly mud. As he could not kill the parents, he set a snare about the nest. Going to it later in the day, he was disappointed at finding his snare set aside, the eggs gone, and the birds not to be seen. He presumed the parents had removed the eggs, of which there had been three, to a safer place.

Several nests were also taken on the shores and among the islets of the Arctic coast, west of Liverpool Bay.

The egg of the Rough-legged Hawk taken by the Storers in Labrador measures 2.06 inches in length by 1.88 in breadth, and is nearly spherical. The ground-color is a soiled white or a light drab, and is marked with a few faint, ill-defined spots of light umber, distributed at intervals over the entire surface.

Two European specimens in my collection are so nearly like the American that the same description would answer for both. They are a trifle larger, but their color and markings are exactly the same. These eggs vary from 2.25 to 2.12 inches in length, and the breadth of each is 1.75 inches. In one specimen the ground-color is of a deeper shade of dingy-white, with larger blotches, and its purplish-slate markings are intermingled with those of umber. A fourth, from Switzerland, varies from most others of this species, and is marked over a cream-colored ground with very numerous and quite large blotches of different shades of umber and sepia-brown. It measures 2.25 by 1.93 inches.

Six eggs taken by Mr. MacFarlane have an average length of 2.18 and an average breadth of 1.79 inches. Their greatest length is 2.24, and their least 2.12 inches. There is but very little variation in their breadth, or only from 1.76 to 1.80 inches. Occasionally these eggs are of a nearly uniform dingy-white, nearly unmarked, and only by very faint cloudings. These cases are rare. Generally they have a creamy-white ground and are boldly marked with blotches of a varying intensity of umber or sepia-brown. Intermingled with these are obscure markings of a purplish-slate.

The dark variety of the Rough-legged Falcon, recognized by some as the *A. sancti-johannis*, Mr. Ridgway is disposed to regard as rather an individual melanism of the common species, rather than as a distinctive race. In this form it appears to be quite generally distributed over the continent, rather in isolated pairs than as a common bird. It was not taken on the Anderson River by Mr. MacFarlane, where the *lagopus* style was extremely common, hundreds of skins having been sent by him to the Smithsonian Institution.

The dark-colored birds are seen occasionally in Massachusetts in the winter season, and are usually found frequenting low alluvial tracts in search of small quadrupeds and frogs, and occasionally well-marked specimens have been secured in the neighborhood of Boston. A pair was found breeding near the mouth of the Kennebec River in Maine, and the eggs were secured. They were not readily distinguishable from those of the common Rough-legged Hawk. It is also said, on the authority of Mr. John Krider of Philadelphia, to have been found breeding in New Jersey, and the eggs taken. The parent bird was not secured. These eggs resembled well-marked eggs of the *lagopus*. Wilson, who observed birds in this plumage on the marshy banks of the Delaware, describes them as remarkably shy and wary, frequenting river-banks, and feeding on mice, moles, and other small game,

sailing a good deal and at a great height, which is not the habit of the *lagopus*, and was seen by him to kill a Duck while on the wing. It has been seen to sit for an hour at a time on a stake by the side of marshes, in an almost perpendicular position, as if dozing. It flies with great ease, and occasionally with great swiftness, and rarely with any flapping of the wings; was most numerous on the Delaware in the winter, but was occasionally to be seen there in the summer. Such is Wilson's account of its habits as observed by him, and these are partially confirmed by Nuttall from his own observations. It is, however, quite probable that they are mistaken in claiming an essential or specific difference in the habits of the two former. Mr. Audubon regarded it as the adult of the *lagopus*, and appears not to have been familiar with its habits.

Captain Blakiston mentions the occurrence of the dark bird on the Saskatchewan Plains, where the parent bird and three eggs were obtained by M. Bourgeau, a French collector, in the summer of 1858, and where it is spoken of as not uncommon. Mr. Andrew Murray, in his Contributions to the Natural History of the Hudson Bay Territories, records specimens from Hudson Bay and the country lying between its western shore and Lake Winnipeg. Dr. Gambel speaks of this bird as common in California. Dr. Cooper refers to one obtained by Mr. Lorquin at San Francisco. Mr. Lawrence cites it among the birds of New York. Mr. Boardman gives it as rare near Calais. Mr. Verrill also gives it among the birds of Western Maine, where the *lagopus* was not observed, but where this form was a regular winter visitant.

The Storers found the Black Hawk not uncommon on the cliffs near Bras d'Or, and their observations of its habits, as contrasted with those of the still more common Rough-legged Hawk, left no doubt in their mind of their specific distinction. While the Black Hawk was observed to be a bold, vigorous, and spirited bird, easy and swift in its motions, and preying upon other birds while on the wing, the Rough-legged was comparatively sluggish, inoffensive, and subsisted only upon rats, mice, moles, frogs, and other small game. A nest containing young birds was found, and one of the latter caught alive. Both old and young were in the same black plumage. The young Hawk was fierce and intractable, and its whole air and manner were utterly unlike the conduct of the young of the other species. Unfortunately, it broke from its confinement and escaped.

The eggs from New Jersey, attributed to this bird by Mr. Krider, vary in the number and depth of coloring of their markings, the blotches in one being darker and less generally distributed. They measure 2.06 by 1.69 inches. Their ground-color is a yellowish white, intermingled with which are faint markings and blotches of a brownish-purple. Over these are diffused confluent blotches of russet-brown.

An egg from near Wiscasset, taken by Edmund Smith, Esq., the parent of which was secured, measures 2.22 by 1.75 inches, has a white ground, and is



marked and blotched with deep amber-brown. These markings are chiefly at one end and only vary in their depth, and are unmixed with any other shading or colors.

GENUS **AQUILA**, AUCIFORM.

*Aquila*, MICHX. 1792. (Type, *Falco chrysaetos*, LINN.)

*Aquila*, NEUMANN, 1844. (Same type.)

*Haliaeetus*, 1844, and *Haliaeetus*, 1845, KAFF. (Type, *Falco pennatus*, GMLL.)

*Falco*, KAFF. 1844. (Type, *Falco calurus*, DAUD.)

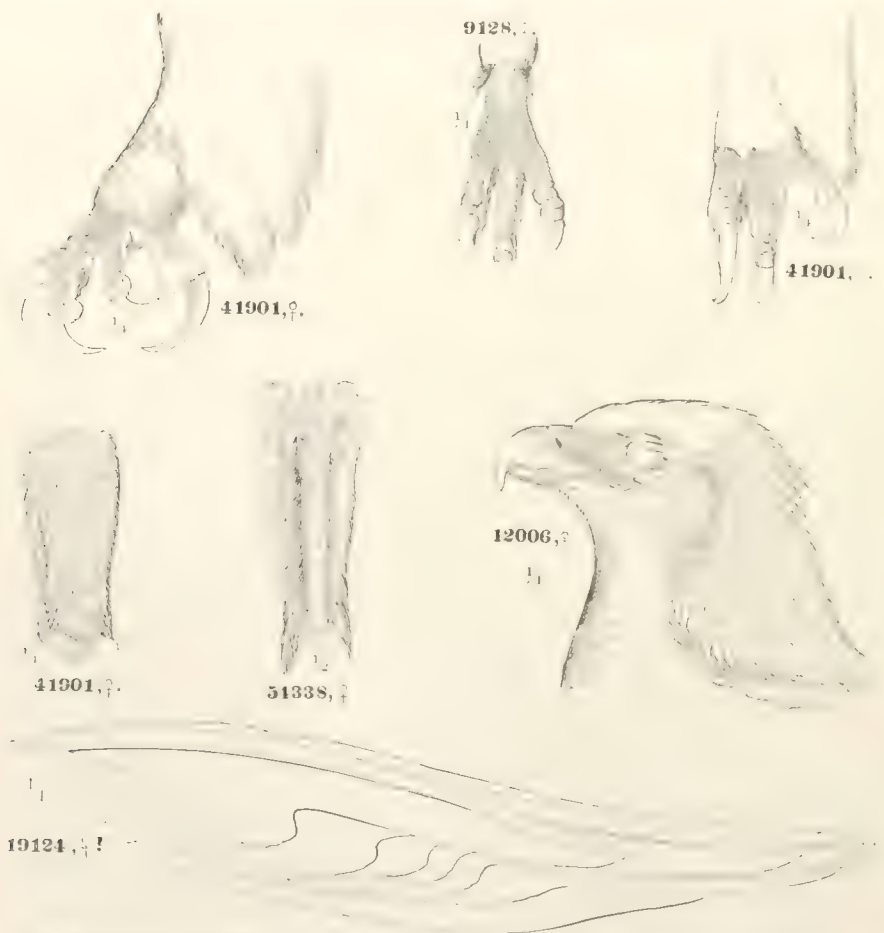
*Falco*, KAFF. 1844. (Type, *Falco carolinensis*, LATH.)

*Falco*, HODGES, 1844. (Type, *Falco calurus*, TEMM.)

*Talio*, BLAS. 1845. (Same type.)

*Eutolmaetus*, BLAS. 1848. (Same type.)

GEN. CHAR. Form robust and structure powerful; the bearing and general aspect that



9128 *Haliaeetus leucoscapus*

41901 12006 19124 *Aquila chrysaetos*, var. *canadensis*

51338 *Accipiter velox* (tarsus from behind)

of *Buteo* and *Archibuteo*. Wing long, the primaries long and strong, with their emargination

tions very deep. Tail rather short, slightly rounded or wedge-shaped. Bill stronger than in the preceding genera, its outlines nearly parallel, and the tip somewhat inclined backward at the point; commissure with a more or less prominent festoon; nostril narrowly oval, vertical; skin of the cere very hard and firm. Superciliary shield very prominent. Feet very strong, the membrane between the outer and middle toes very well developed; tarsus less than twice as long as the middle toe; outer toe equal to, or longer than, the inner; claws very long and strong, very much graduated in size; scutellæ of the toes small except on the terminal joint, where they form broad transverse plates; tarsi densely feathered all round down to the base of the toes; tibial plumes well developed, loose-webbed, their ends reaching down to or beyond the base of the toes. Feathers of the nape and occiput lanceolate, acute, and distinct, forming a nuchal "cape" of differently formed feathers. Third to fifth quill longest; first shorter than the seventh; outer five or six with their inner webs deeply emarginated.

This genus is almost peculiar to the Old World, where about seventeen so-called species are known, while America has no member of the genus exclusively its own, the single North American species being the same as the European one. Though the details of external structure vary somewhat, and the size ranges from that of a *Buteo* to that of a sea-eagle (*Haliaëtus*), the generic characters given in the above diagnosis apply well to all the species. The species of *Heteropus*, Hodgson, 1842 (*A. malayensis*, REIN. and *H. gurneyi*, Gray), I remove entirely from *Aquila*, since they differ so strikingly in many important respects. With the general aspect of *Aquila*, *Heteropus* has the outer toe disproportionately shorter than the inner (instead of equal to it, or longer), which curious feature it shares only with *Geranospiza* of tropical America, and *Polyboroides* of South Africa,—both terrestrial *Buteonine* forms of specialized structure. An entirely peculiar feature of *Heteropus* is the great length and straightness of the claws. Its bill is more like that of *Archibuteo* than like that of *Aquila*.

The North American and European races of the single species which occurs on the former continent may be distinguished as follows:—

#### Species and Races.

**A. chrysaëtus.** Wing, 23.00–27.00; tail, 14.00–16.00; culmen, 1.50–1.90; tarsus, 3.40–4.20; middle toe, 2.40–3.10. Third to fifth quill longest first shorter than seventh or eighth. Color blackish-brown, or umber-brown, nearly uniform, except on the tail; nuchal cape of lanceolate feathers, and tarsi of a paler and more tawny tint. *Adult.* Tail transversely clouded with ashy, and not white at the base; feathers of the body not distinctly white beneath the surface. *Young.* Tail with the basal half plain white, the terminal portion plain blackish; feathers of the body distinctly white beneath the surface. *Hab.* Nearctic and Palearctic Realms.

Tarsi of adult pale umber; of young, dirty whitish. *Hab.* Palearctic Realm . . . . . var. *chrysaëtus*.<sup>1</sup>  
Tarsi of adult deep umber; of young light brown. *Hab.* Nearctic Realm . . . . . var. *canadensis*.

<sup>1</sup> *Aquila chrysaëtus*, var. *chrysaëtus* (LINN.). *Aquila valeria*, ALBIN, B. II. pl. ii. *Aquila chrysaëtus*, BRISS. Orn. I, 431, et AUCT. *Falco chrysaëtus*, LINN. S. N. 1760, 125. *Aquila*  
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***Aquila chrysaëtus*, var. *canadensis* LINN.****GOLDEN EAGLE; RING-TAILED EAGLE.**

*Aquila chrysaëtus* Linn., Rich. & Sw. F. B. A. II, 1831, 12. — JARD. (Wils.) Am. Orn. II, 1832, 304. — BONAP. LIST, 1848, 2. — ALD. Synop. 1863, 9. — DEKAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 4, pl. vi, f. 14 (*Juv.*). — CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. 109. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 55 (in part). — BREWER, Oology, 1857, 45. — COUES, Key, 1872, 219. *Falco chrysaëtus*, (LINN.) MAX. Cab. J. 1858, VI, 9. — BLAS. Ber. XVI, Vers. Deutsch. Orn. 1862, 83 ("absolutely identical with European"). *Falco canadensis*, LINN. S. N. (ed. 10), 1766, 88. *Aquila canadensis*, WILS. Am. Orn. 1808, pl. lv, f. 1. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. II, 1855, 30. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 41. — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 13. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 40. *Falco niger*, GMEL S. N. 359. *Aquila nobilis*, PALL. Zoög. Ros. As. 1811. *Aquila fulva* (not of LINN!), NUTT. Man. Orn. 1833, 62. — PEAB. B. Mass. 1841, 71.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (24,167, Fort Crook, North California, Dec. 25; D. F. Parkinson). General plumage fuliginous-black, this deepest on the head, throat, lower surface in general, under surface of the wings, back, scapulars, shoulders, secondaries, primaries, and rump; middle and secondary wing-coverts, upper and under tail-coverts, tarsi and inside of tibiae, considerably paler, inclining to light umber. Lanceolate feathers of occiput and nape with the exposed portions light fulvous, the shafts black; dusky beneath the surface. Tail black, somewhat paler on basal half, and with about three irregular, obsolete zigzag bands of pale brown (on two middle feathers ashy); no concealed white on breast. Fifth quill longest; third and fourth intermediate between fifth and sixth; second considerably shorter than sixth; first intermediate between eighth and ninth. Length, 31.60; extent, 78.30. Wing, 24.50; tail, 13.40; culmen, 1.60; from base of cere, 2.15; tarsus, 3.85; middle toe, 2.40; hind claw (chord) 1.90.

*Adult female* (12,006, Washington, D. C., March 7, 1869; C. Drexler). Almost exactly like the male. Black covering forehead, ear-coverts, cheeks, chin, throat, foreneck, and under parts generally (except the tarsi, inside and front of tibiae, and lower tail-coverts, which are light fulvous, the tarsi palest), more tawny than in the male. The lanceolate, pale, tawny feathers, which in the male cover only the occiput and neck, in the female extend forward over the top of the head, leaving the forehead only blackish. Upper parts and tail as in the male. Fourth quill longest; third slightly shorter than fifth; second intermediate between sixth and seventh; first intermediate between eighth and ninth. Wing, 26.00; tail, 14.25; culmen, 1.70; tarsus, 3.80; middle toe, 2.70; hind claw, 2.15; inner toe, 1.90; outer, 2.00; inner claw, 1.80; middle, 1.35; outer, 1.10.

*Young male* (49,684, Camp Grant, near Tucson, Arizona, July 10, 1867; Dr. E. Palmer). Continuous deep sepia-black, with a purplish lustre; breast and scapulars with large concealed spots of pure white; lanceolate feathers of the "mane" dull brown, not conspicuously different from the throat; under surface of primaries showing much white basally, this most extended on inner feathers. Upper and under tail-coverts more brownish than the rump, the basal portion white. Basal half or more of tail white (more ashy on outer

*melanaëtus*, BRISS. Orn. I, 434. *Falco melanaëtus*, LINN. S. N. 124. *Aquila regia*, LESS. Tr. Orn. *Falco fulvus*, LINN. S. N. 1760, 125 (*young*).

*List of Specimens examined*. — Nat. Mus., 4; Philad. Acad., 14; Bost. Soc., 2; Mus. Cambridge, 1; Mus. J. C. Sharp, Jr., 1. Total, 22.

*Measurements*. — ♂. Wing, 23.80–24.30; tail, 14.00–14.50; culmen, 1.68–1.70; tarsus, 3.40; middle toe, 2.40–2.45. Specimens, 2. ♀. Wing, 25.00–25.50; tail, 14.00–14.50; culmen, 1.80–1.85; tarsus, 3.80–4.10; middle toe, 2.85–3.10. Specimens, 3.

feathers), distinctly defined against the broad, pure black, terminal zone; tarsi dull white, clouded with dilute brownish; inside of tibiæ with feathers tipped with white.

*Young female* (older?) (9,121, Washington, D. C., Dec., 1856; B. Cross). Similar, but black more brown; "mane" as in adult; tarsi dull whitish brown; tail-coverts deep umber-brown; tail as in young male, but terminal band narrower, the white occupying nearly the basal two thirds. Wing, 25.70; tail, 14.75; culmen, 1.65; middle toe, 2.80; hind claw, 2.20.

**HAB.** Whole of North America north of Mexico; most common in mountainous regions.

LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 8; Philadelphia Academy, 2; Boston Society, 2; Cambridge Museum, 2; Coll. R. Ridgway, 2. Total, 16.

Measurements.

Sex.	Wing	Tail.	Culmen	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens
♂	23.00 — 24.50	14.00 — 15.00	1.50 — 1.62	3.65 — 3.80	2.40 — 2.80	5
♀	25.00 — 27.00	15.00 — 16.00	1.68 — 1.85	4.15 — 4.20	2.55 — 2.80	7

A young male from Massachusetts (No. 39, Lexington; Dr. S. Kneeland), in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History, has the tail plain black, the extreme base and tip white.

Though the Golden Eagles of North America can be distinguished by the characters given in the diagnosis on p. 312 from those of Europe, the differences are appreciable only on direct comparison. The American bird is darker in all its shades of color, the difference being most marked in the young plumage, which in var. *chrysaëtus* has the tarsal features nearly white, and in var. *canadensis* light brown, the brown of other portions being also considerably darker. The American bird appears to be rather the larger.

**HABITS.** The Ring-tailed or Golden Eagle of North America is found throughout the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from New Mexico to the higher Arctic regions.

In its geographical distribution, the Golden Eagle of North America appears to be chiefly confined to the mountainous regions, and the more northern portions, but to be nowhere abundant. Sir John Richardson saw but few individuals in the Arctic regions, nor does he appear ever to have met with its nest. Individual birds on the Atlantic coast have been occasionally obtained, — once as far south as Philadelphia, twice at Washington, — but very rarely. Several specimens appear to have been obtained among the mountains of New Mexico by Dr. Henry's party.

Although not mentioned by either Dr. Heermann or Dr. Gambel in their lists of the birds of California, it was found in Oregon by Dr. Townsend, and is said by Dr. Cooper to be quite common in almost all parts of California during the colder months. It is, however, much less numerous than the White-headed Eagle. It is very much more a mountain bird, and its descent into the plains or to the sea-coast is said to be quite rare. Dr. Adol-



plus Heermann, in his Report of the survey between Fort Yuma and San Francisco, speaks of seeing one of these birds near Livermore Pass, and of meeting others in Northern California, and of an individual killed in the



*Aquila carolinensis.*

mountains near Mokelumne River. He regarded it, both in that state and elsewhere, as a rare and wild bird. It is not mentioned as occurring in Greenland. It was found breeding in Napa Valley, Cal., by Mr. F. Gruber.

A bird was secured alive in Brighton, near Boston, in 1837, by being taken in a trap which had been set for another purpose. Its occurrence, however, near the sea-coast, is very rare, and even among the mountains it is never found except in occasional pairs. It breeds in the mountainous portions of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York, and was formerly not unfrequent

among the cliffs of the Hudson River. Steamboats and railroads have, however, driven this wild bird from its romantic retreats in that quarter. In Franconia, N. H., for quite a number of years, a pair occupied a nest on an inaccessible rock, near the top of a mountain, known as Eagle Cliff, in sight of, and opposite, the Profile House. Repeated efforts have been made to reach its nest, but thus far without success. In the summer of 1855 a renewed attempt was made to scale the precipice over which the shelving rock, on which the nest stands, projects. A party was formed, and although they succeeded in ascending the mountain, which had never been achieved before, they could reach only a point beyond and above, not the nest itself. The attempt to pass to it was abandoned as too perilous. The party reported a large collection of bones in its immediate vicinity, with other evidences of the accumulated plunder of many years, as well as a plentiful supply of fresh food at the time visited.

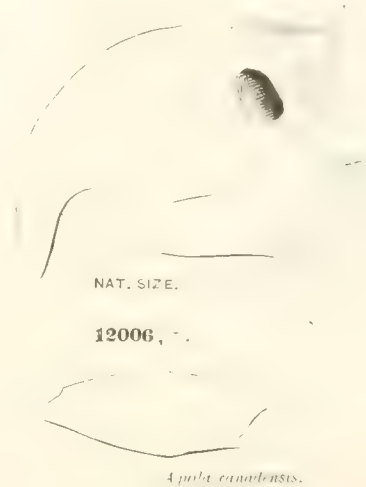
Without here seeking to affect the question of identity of species, it is interesting to note certain peculiarities in the European Golden Eagle so far not noticed or of rare occurrence in the American birds. Mr. I. W. P. Orde

in the Ibis of 1861 (p. 112), gives a very interesting account of a pair of Golden Eagles, which the previous season built their nest in a large Scotch fir-tree, in a wood on the southern bank of Glen Lyon, in Perthshire, within a few hundred yards of Meggerine Castle. Four eggs were laid, two of which were hatched. The nest was one of the Eagles' own construction, and is specially interesting from being in such near proximity to human habitations. Mr. Tristram (Ibis, 1859, p. 283, in his valuable note on the birds of North Africa), while he never observed this Eagle in any of the cliffs among the mountain ranges of the desert, found it almost gregarious, so abundant was it among the Day-ets. In one wood he saw no less than seven pairs of the Eagles, each pair with a nest. There were, be-

sides, many unoccupied nests, and, indeed, very few terebinths of any size were without a huge platform of sticks on the topmost boughs. The birds were undisturbed, and consequently very fearless. On the other hand Mr. Salvin, in the same volume (p. 180) among the mountains of Eastern Atlas, describes very different manner of life in the same birds. "Whatever rock a pair may choose for their eyrie, there they reign alone in dignified solitude, nor do they allow a single Vulture, Kite, or indeed any other species of rapacious bird, to occupy with their nest a single spot in the same rock, however eligible for the purpose; nor are these other species ever to be seen in the haunts of their exclusive majesties. The whole southern precipice at Djebel Dekma was thus tenanted by a single pair of this Eagle, as also several other rocks that came under our notice. Instances of the Golden Eagle building in trees were by no means of unfrequent occurrence."

The extreme southern range of the European bird, its gregarious habit, and the frequency of its building in trees, are all peculiarities not observed in the American form. They are not necessarily conclusive, but are at least suggestive.

The Golden Eagle in this country usually constructs its nest on the sides of steep, rocky crags, where its materials are coarsely heaped together on a projecting shelf of rock. These consist of large sticks, loosely arranged, and lined with other softer materials. In rare instances they are said to build on trees, where rocky cliffs are not to be met with. The eggs are usually three in number; sometimes two, or only one. Mr. Audubon describes them as measuring 3.50 inches in length by 2.50 in breadth; the shell thick and



smooth, dull white, brushed over with undefined patches of brown, which are most numerous at the larger end. This description is not quite accurate in regard to size. The European egg is presumed to be larger than the American, yet the largest I have ever seen measures but 3.19 inches in length by 2.31 in breadth. An egg of the European bird in the British Museum, and another represented in Hewitson's British Oölogy, which closely resembled it, were marked over the entire surface with small but distinct blotches of reddish-brown on a white ground. One in my collection, taken in Scotland, is nearly unmarked. A distinctly bluish-white ground is faintly stained with a few very obscure markings of slate and purplish-brown.

Mr. MacFarlane furnishes very full and interesting notes and observations on the habits of our *canadensis*, as attentively studied by him in the neighborhood of Anderson River, near the Arctic Ocean. Our limits will only permit us to give a summary of his valuable memoranda. In a large majority of instances the nests were built against the face of a steep bank, some sixty or seventy feet from the ground, and about thirty from the summit. They were very strongly constructed with dry sticks, usually of willow, and formed a platform on the top, in the centre of which the eggs were found on a bed composed of moss, hay, and feathers. These platforms were usually about six by seven feet, and ranged from four to six in height. It is said to be "not very scarce in that quarter," and to be "a resident, in the summer, of the entire Arctic coast and rivers." Mention is made of ten nests observed by him, and eggs taken therefrom. In several instances these eggs were white and unspotted, exciting his doubts whether they might belong to the *leucocephalus*.

According to Mr. MacFarlane they feed on ducks, mice, and other small animals, partridges, and the fawn of the reindeer. In confinement they are fierce and nearly untamable, though they readily eat the food that is given them, whether fish or meat. Even when taken young from the nest they evince the same fearless and intractable disposition. In one instance a young female killed its older companion by piercing it with her talons. When first observed, she was standing on and plucking the feathers from the body of the slain bird. This was the second bird this same ferocious, but comparatively tame, Eagle had thus destroyed. When the cage was removed outside, though the weather was very cold, the Eagles did not seem to mind it much, but exercised themselves with jumping off and on their roosting-pole, and seemed very much interested in all that was taking place within the Fort square. They kept their plumage in a cleanly condition, and were generally a very clean bird in all respects. During the fine weather the Eagles were more lively than on other occasions. When feeding they drooped both wings, and, if disturbed, arched their necks and moved their heads in a threatening manner, spreading out their tails like a fan. They grasped the meat or fish in the talons of either leg, and tore it with their beaks. After feeding, they invariably removed any blood or other impurities

that may have adhered to the beak by scratching it with their talons or rubbing it against the bars of their cage. Several of these birds, in confinement, especially the female referred to, when their cage was approached, would endeavor to attack Mr. MacFarlane, descending from their sleeping-pole and making a rush at the front bars of the cage, spreading the wings and flapping them with great force, and making active demonstrations with beak and talons. Occasionally they would get out of their cages; then it was no easy matter to get them back again, as, when approached, they would throw themselves on their backs and thrust out their talons in the most formidable manner. They nest as early as the last of April or early in May, as largely developed embryos were found on the 27th of May. When their nests were pillaged they generally deserted them; but in one instance, where the female had been snared upon her nest, and the eggs taken, the same nest was occupied the following season by the male with another mate. The new mate was shot, and proved to be a mature bird. Almost invariably the male birds were too wary to be either shot or taken in a snare. Two of the nests of this bird, pointed out by the Indians, appeared to have been used for several years, and had been known to their discoverers for six or seven years previous. The nests taken were in about latitude  $69^{\circ} 30'$ .

In one particular case a nest had been discovered two years previously by MacFarlane's Esquimo interpreter. It had been occupied that season, and a pair of Eagles had been recognized as its inmates. In 1863 the nest was known to have been reoccupied, though he did not visit it. On the 17th of May, 1864, he went to it and found both Eagles engaged in repairing it. The female appeared to act as the builder, and the male as the carrier of the materials, as well as the provider of provisions. The nest was not complete, and contained two half-eaten Ptarmigans, but no eggs. It was built against the face of a steep bank of a small stream, and was of considerable bulk. When first constructed, the nest of this Eagle is comparatively small, but as it is renovated every season, it ultimately becomes large and bulky. A quantity of dry sticks and twigs are laid lengthways over the greater portion of the platform of the previous season, and the spaces between are filled up by smaller twigs, mosses, and hay, and the centre is then covered with the two latter ingredients, intermixed with deer's hair, etc. This annual addition varies in thickness from three to eighteen inches. In no instance did Mr. MacFarlane find or hear of any accumulation of bones or other *débris* of food either on or in the neighborhood of the nests. In three instances the nests were constructed in the tops of tall pines. In these cases the sandy nature of the soil did not favor their building on the sides of cliffs.

The "Mountain Eagle," as this species is called throughout the western regions of the United States, was found by Mr. Ridgway to be a common species throughout the Great Basin along the line of the 40th parallel. It was daily seen soaring about the mountains, and nested on inaccessible cliffs. A pair — the female leading — were observed to give chase to a Sage Hen



(*Centrocercus urophasianus*), chasing her on the wing until the fugitive dropped down to the ground from exhaustion, when she was picked up by the foremost of the Eagles, who then flew off together to the summit of the mountain range (the East Humboldt) near by, where they probably had their nest.

An egg of this bird, taken by Mr. R. MacDonald among the mountains west of the Lower Mackenzie River, measures 2.60 inches in length by 2.18 in breadth. The ground-color is of a rich pinkish cream-color, boldly dashed with large blotches of three or four varying shades of umber-brown, intermingled with a few finer markings of a lighter shade of brown, and a few clouded markings of a purplish-slate. These markings are grouped and confluent about the smaller end. Other specimens vary to whitish, with faint obsolete blotches.

#### GENUS **HALIAËTUS**, SAVIGNY.

*Haliaëtus*, SAVIG. 1809. (Type, *Falco alpinus*, LINN.)

*Thalassodius*, KAUP, 1844. (Type, *Falco pelagicus*, PALLAS.)

*Cunecum*, HOBBSOON, 1837. (Type, *Falco macei*, TEMM.)

*Pontoaëtus*, KAUP, 1844. (Same type.)

*Blagrus*, BLAS. 1849. (Same type.)

*Polioaëtus*, KAUP, 1847. (Type, *Falco ichthyætus*, HORSF.)

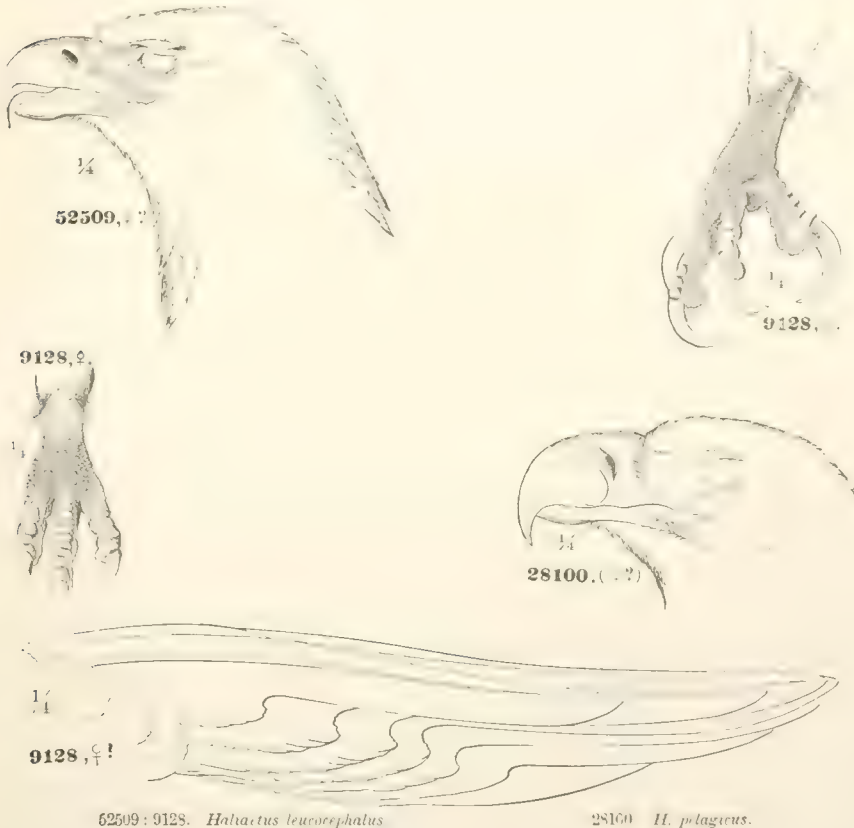
*Ichthyætus*, LAFR. 1839 (nec KAUP, 1829). (Same type.)

GEN. CHAR. Form robust, and organization powerful, as in *Aquila*; size large. Bill very large, usually somewhat inflated, the chord of the arch of the culmen more than twice the length of the cere on top; commissure with a more or less distinct festoon and sinuation behind it. Nostril oval, obliquely vertical. Feet robust and strong, the tarsus less than one and a half times the middle toe; tarsus feathered in front and on the sides for about one half its length; front of the tarsus and top of the toes with an imperfectly continuous series of transverse scutellæ, entirely interrupted in the region of the digitotarsal joint; the other portions covered with roundish, somewhat granular, scales, these larger on the posterior face. Claws large, strongly curved, and more obtuse, and less graduated in size, than in *Aquila*. No trace of a web between outer and middle toes. Wing very large, the primaries well developed and strong; third to fifth quill longest; first longer than the ninth; outer five to six with inner webs deeply emarginated. Tail variable in length and shape, usually short and rounded, cuneate and with fourteen feathers in *H. pelagicus*, and nearly even, and with twelve feathers, in *H. macei*, the rest all having twelve feathers, varying in form with the species. Feathers of the neck, all round, lanceolate.

The species of this very strongly marked genus vary between great extremes in the details of their external structure; but these variations I consider to be mainly specific, though two well-defined subgeneric divisions should be made, one to include the Old World *H. leucogaster*, *H. vocifer*, and *H. ichthyætus*, which have five, instead of six, outer quills, with their inner webs cut, and the tarsus with the frontal and posterior rows of broad transverse scutellæ nearly as well developed and continuous as in *Buteo*. The last of these species has the claws nearly uniform in size, and contracted

and rounded underneath almost as much as in *Pandion*; but the other species are less so, each differing in this respect, so that I consider this as only indicating the greatest perfection in the specialization of the piscatorial type of modified structure. In the possession of fourteen tail-feathers, its very large bill, naked lores, and general aspect, the *H. pelagicus* shows an approach to the Old World Vultures.

About nine species are known, of which only two belong to North America, one of them (*H. leucocephalus*) being peculiar to that continent. Tropical



America is without a single representation of the genus. The majority of the species belong to the Indian region, only the *H. albicilla* and *H. pelagicus* belonging to the Palearctic Realm, the former representing the western, and the latter peculiar to the eastern, district of that zoögeographical division; it is the former which straggles into the Nearctic fauna. The habits of the Sea Eagles differ considerably from those of the true Eagles (*Aquila*) in very important respects; they frequent the shores of the sea, lakes, or large rivers, instead of mountainous portions, and feed chiefly — some of the species entirely — on fish. Those of the subgenus *Polioaëtus* are almost precisely like *Pandion* in their habits.

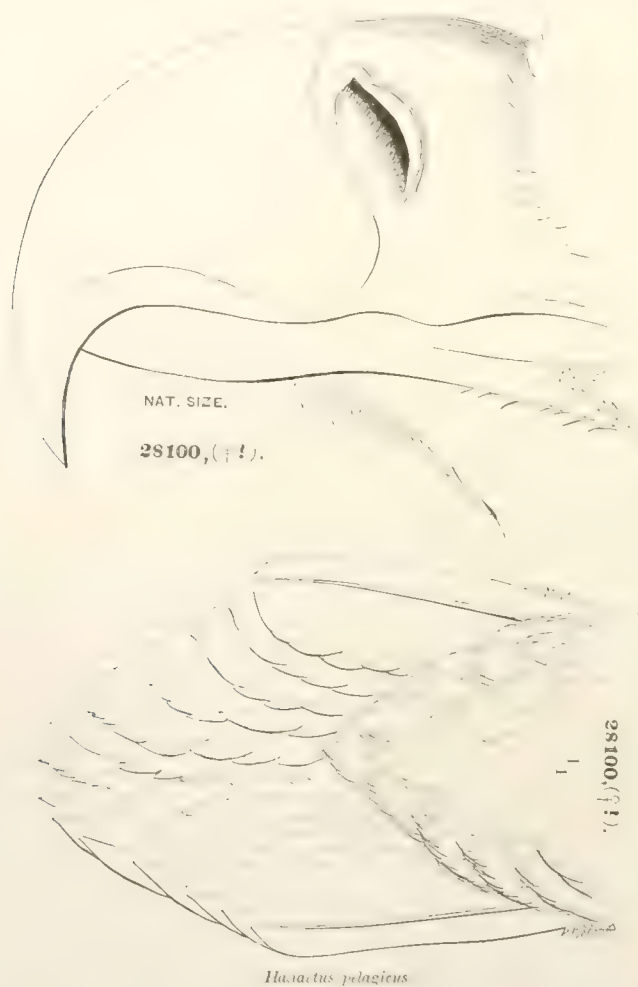
The three closely allied species belonging to the northern portions of the Northern Hemisphere may be distinguished by the characters given in the following synopsis.

#### Species and Races.

**COMMON CHARACTERS.** *Adult.* Bill, cere, and iris yellow. Tail, and sometimes the head and neck, white. *Young.* Bill and cere black; iris dark brown. Tail, head, and neck, blackish.

**A.** The outer rectrices, sometimes, or graduated, for nearly half its length. Nostril with its lower end acute, bevelled gradually to the level of the cere; upper outline of the cere very convex; lore naked.

<sup>1</sup> *Haliaeetus pelagicus* (PALL.). *Falco pelagicus*, PALLAS, Zoog. Ros. As. I. 343, pl. ix. *Apus p.*, KITTL., BOIE. *Haliaeetus p.*, SIEB., GRAY, CASS. B. Cal. & Tex. I, pp. 31, 110, pl. vi (♀);



In. Birds N. Am. 1858, 42. *Thalassochelus*, KAUP, JARD. *Falco leucopterus*, TUNM. *Falco imperator*, KITTL. *Hab.* Northeastern Asia, Japan (SIEBOLD); Kamtschatka.

1. *H. pelagicus*.<sup>1</sup> Wing, 24.50–26.00; tail, 13.50–16.00; culmen, 2.60; depth of bill, 1.80; cere, on top, 1.10; tarsus, 3.50; middle toe, 2.95. *Adult*. Forehead, greater wing-coverts, abdomen, and tail, white; other portions blackish-brown (Auct.). *Young*. Dark umber or blackish-brown, the feathers of the head and neck with lighter shaft-streaks; tertials (except at ends) and basal third, or more, of inner webs of tail-feathers, white; tail-coverts much mixed with the same. *Hab.* North-eastern Asia.

**B.** Tail of twelve feathers, only slightly rounded. Lower end of the nostril rounded, opening more abruptly inward; upper outline of the cere nearly straight; lores scantily feathered.

2. *H. albicilla*. Wing, 23.00–28.00; tail, 11.50–16.00; culmen, 2.05–2.20; tarsus, 3.30–3.80; middle toe, 2.50–2.95; depth of bill about 1.45; cere, on top, .85. *Adult*. Head and neck pale grayish-fulvous, or dirty yellowish-gray, not abruptly lighter than the body. Tail, only, pure white. Rest of the plumage, including the tail-coverts, dark grayish-brown, inclining to blackish on the primaries. *Young*. Prevailing tint of the upper parts light isabella-color, or pale grayish-cinnamon, each feather having a terminal triangular spot of blackish-brown. Breast soiled white, with broad stripes of brownish-black; rest of the lower parts nearly uniform fulvous-brown, the tibiae darker. *Hab.* Europe; Egypt; Greenland.

3. *H. leucocephalus*. Wing, 20.00–26.00; tail, 10.50–15.50; culmen, 1.85–2.20; tarsus, 2.65–3.70; middle toe, 2.35–3.10; depth of bill about 1.30; cere, on the top, .80. *Adult*. Head and neck, tail and tail-coverts, pure white, immaculate (except in transition dress). Rest of the plumage brownish-black. *Young*. Brownish-black, showing much concealed white at the bases of the feathers; ground-color inclining to umber-brown on the upper surface; on the lower parts, the basal white much exposed and predominating, the blackish forming longitudinal, tear-shaped spots. Head and neck brownish-black, the penicillated feathers of the nape seldom with whitish points. Tail-feathers and primaries black, the inner webs usually more or less marked, longitudinally, with buffy-whitish. *Hab.* The whole of North America.

SP. CHAR. *Young female* (?) (28, 100, Amoor River; Mr. Burlingame). Form: very similar to *H. albicilla* and *H. leucocephalus*, but bill altogether more robust, and feet rather less so, than in these. Tail, of fourteen feathers! graduated for about one half its length. Dimensions: About the size of the female of the two other species. Color: Generally dusky vandyke brown, a medial line on the lanceolate feathers of the neck, and the border of the squamate ones of the tibiae, decidedly lighter. Entire plumage white at the base, this exposed wherever the feathers are disarranged, and prevailing on the crissum. Tertials, basal half of inner webs of primaries, the whole tail, and upper tail-coverts, white with a yellowish tinge. Tertials, upper tail-coverts, and tail-feathers, with a large terminal spot of clear grayish-black; on the tail these form a rather irregular terminal zone, being on the middle feather narrower, and broken into fine blotches. Bill, cere, lore, and feet, yellow; end of upper mandible, and the claws, black. Wing-formula, 3, 4, 2, 5–6–7 = 1. Wing, 24.50; tail, 13.50; culmen, 2.60; depth of bill, 1.80; cere, on top, 1.10; tarsus, 3.50; middle toe, 2.95.



**Haliaeetus albicilla (LINN.).****GRAY SEA-EAGLE.**

*Haliaeetus albicilla*, BRIS. ORN. I, 427, 1760. — PALL. Zool. Ross. As. I, 345, 1811. — BENTON. Isis, 1824, pp. 878, 892. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, 207, 1837. — KUHL. Beiträg. Zool. pt. i, p. 76 (anat.), 1820. — TYZENHAUZ, Rev. Zool. 1848, p. 235. — BAILLY, Orn. Sav. I, 110, 1853. — S. LONGCH. Faun. Belg. p. 53, 1842. *Vultur albicilla*, LINN. Syst. Nat. p. 123, 1766. *Falco albicilla*, PENN. Brit. Zool. p. 61, pl. A, 1812; ed. 8vo, 1812, I, 209, pl. xviii. — GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 253, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. I, 9, 1790; Syn. I, 33, 1781; Supp. I, 11, 1802; Gen. Hist. I, 46 A, 1821. — ODMANN, Nov. Act. Soc. Ups. IV, 225. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 79, 1812. — TEMM. Man. Orn. pt. i, 49; pt. iii, 26, 1820; Tab. Méth. p. 3, 1836. — KITTL. Kupf. Vög. pl. ii, f. 2, 1832. — BRUNN. Orn. Bor. p. 3, 1764. — FABER, Prod. Island, Orn. p. 1, 1822. — NAUM. Nat. Vög. Deutschl. ed. nov. I, 224, pls. xii, xiii, xiv, 1822; Nachtr. p. 330, pl. ix, f. 17. — FRISCH, Vög. Deutschl. pl. lxix, 70, 1739. *Haliaeetus albicilla*, CUV. Reg. Anim. (ed. 1), I, 315, 1817; (ed. 2), I, 336, 1829. — BENN. Gard. Zool. Soc. II, 33, 1831. — WERN. Atl. Ois. Eur. 1826. — LESS. Man. Orn. I, 85, 1828. — VIG. Raffl. Life, p. 648. SELBY, Brit. Orn. I, 18, pl. iii, iii\*, 1833. — GOULD, B. Eur. pl. x, 1837. — BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 3, 1838; Cat. Ucc. Eur. p. 19, 1842; Consp. Av. p. 15, 1850; Rev. et Mag. Zool. p. 531, 1854. — CASS. B. Calif. & Tex. I, p. 111, 1854. — GRAY, Gen. B. p. 3; ed. 2, p. 4; fol. sp. 1, pl. vii, fig. 8. — BREHM. Vög. Deutschl. I, 14, pl. iii, f. 1, 1831. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 43, 1858. — SCLAT. Pr. Z. S. 1863, 257 (found in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia — this disproven!). — ELLIOT, Birds N. A. I. *Haliaeetus albicilla*, GRAY, Hand List, I, 16, 1869. *Aquila ossifraga*, BRIS. ORN. I, p. 437 (Juv.), 1760. — KUHL, Beiträg. Zool. pt. i, p. 60, pl. iv, figs. 1, 3, 3; pl. v, f. 1. *Falco ossifragus*, LINN. Syst. Nat. p. 124, 1766. — GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 255, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 12, 1790; Syn. I, 30, 1781; Supp. I, 9, 1802; Gen. Hist. I, 48 (Juv.), 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 64, 1800. — SHAW, Zool. VII, pl. xviii, 1809. — RAFFL. LINN. Tr. VIII, 277 (var.). *Aquila leucocephala*, MEYER, Tascheub. Deutsch. Vögelk. p. 16, 1810. *Falco melanotus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 254, 1789. *Falco albicaudus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. p. 258, 1789. *Falco hinularius*, LATH. Ind. Orn. p. 15, 1790; Syn. I, 39, sp. 16, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, 47 B, 1821. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 80, 1809. *Falco pygargus*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 62, 1800. *Falco albicilla borealis*, FABER, Isis, 1827, p. 56; Prod. Island, Orn. p. 1, 1822. *Haliaeetus nisus*, SAVIG. Descr. Eryp. pt. i, 86, 1809. — VIEILL. Faun. Franç. p. 10, pl. v, figs. 1, 2. — DEGL. Mém. Soc. Sc. Lille, 1831, p. 213. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 40, pl. viii, fig. 2, 1831. — ROUX, Orn. Prod. I, 16, pl. ix, x, 1825.

**SP. CHAR.** *Adult male* (56,034, Europe; Schlüter Collection). Plumage almost continuously umber-brown, becoming black on the primaries; on the head and neck approaching pale grayish-brown. Tail (but not the coverts) white, much mottled with dusky at base; shafts of the quills white. Wing-formula,  $3-2=4-5-6, 1$ . Wing, 23.00; tail, 11.50; culmen, 2.20; depth of bill, 1.45; cere, above, .85; tarsus, 3.30; middle toe, 2.50; outer, 2.00; inner, 1.70; posterior, 1.40. Bill and feet yellow.

*Young.* Head and neck blackish-brown, feathers whitish beneath the surface, the long pencilate feathers of the nape tipped inconspicuously with the same; prevailing color of the upper surface isabella-color (much more reddish than in corresponding age of *leucocephalus*) each feather with a terminal triangular spot of blackish-brown; tertials more whitish. Secondaries rich dark brown; primaries deep black, their shafts dark brown. Tail brownish-black much spotted with isabella-color, or soiled creamy-white, this occupying most of the inner webs. Breast soiled white, each feather with a conspicuous broad medial stripe of brownish-black; abdomen more fulvous; tibiae nearly uniform dark brown. Rump nearly uniform vinaceous-fulvous. Bill black. Feet yellow.

*Male* (56,037, North Europe; Schlütter Coll.). Wing, 26.00; tail, 12.50; culmen, 2.20.

*Female* (56,039, North of Europe; Schlütter Coll.). Wing, 28.00; tail, 16.00; culmen, 2.45; depth of bill, 1.55; cere above, .70; tarsus, 3.65; middle toe, 3.50.

*Hab.* Europe and in Greenland.

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 3; Philadelphia Academy, 3; New York Museum, 2; Boston Society, 2; Cambridge Museum, 1. Total, 11.

## Measurements.

Sex	Wing.	Tail	Culmen.	Tarsus	Middle Toe	Specimens
♂ Ad.	23.00 - 24.00	11.50 -	2.10 - 2.20	3.30 - 3.70	2.50 - 2.85	2
♂ Juv.	24.75 - 26.00	12.50 -	2.05 - 2.20	3.80 -	2.70 -	2
♀ Juv.	27.80 - 28.00	14.00 - 16.00	2.20 - 2.45	3.50 - 3.65	2.95 - 3.50	2

**HABITS.** The White-tailed or Gray Sea Eagle is common to the sea-coast of Europe, where it inhabits only the parts of the country adjacent to the sea, and rears its young on the cliffs. It occurs in Greenland, and is on that ground included in the fauna of North America. It has not yet been traced south of Greenland, nor has it been found in any part of our continent.

The Sea Eagle in Europe is rarely found inland. It builds its nest on rocky cliffs projecting over the water, on the shores of Scotland, the Orkney and Shetland Islands, Norway, Russia, etc. The nest is constructed of sticks, or, where these are not convenient, of seaweed. The eggs are two or three in number. Their ground-color



*Haliaeetus albicilla* (Europe).

is a clear white, usually unmarked, but occasionally stained with small, faint spots of light brown. The measurements of two in my collection, both from Scotland, but obtained at different times by H. F. Walter, Esq., of London, are as follows: Length 2.69 inches, breadth 2.19 inches; length 2.13 inches, breadth 2.25 inches.

The following, in relation to their breeding and distribution, is taken from Mr. Yarrell's excellent work on the Birds of Great Britain:—

“The White-tailed Eagle builds its nest on high rocks, and lays two eggs,

about the same size of those of the Golden Eagle, but with very little or no red color on the white ground. The young are at first covered with a soiled white down, and even at this age the beaks and claws of the eaglets are of very large size. A pair of Golden Eagles have been known to rear their young in the same spot for eight seasons in succession; and Mr. Mudie has mentioned that, being thus attached to a particular locality, their young, when able to provide for themselves, are driven away by the parent birds to get their living elsewhere; but the more erratic White-tailed Eagles, quitting the breeding station when the season is ended, leave their young to forage over the district in which they have been raised. In confinement, the White-tailed Eagle sometimes becomes sociable. . . . One kept by Mr. Hoy laid three eggs in the same season; and a female in the possession of Mr. Selby laid an egg after having been kept in confinement twenty years. . . . The White-tailed Eagle breeds in the Hebrides, in Orkney and Shetland. Mr. Dunn, in his useful Guide to these latter islands, names the particular localities in which they may be found, but states that they are much more numerous in winter than in summer. This accords with the opinion of Mr. Temminck and others that this species returns to the southward from high northern latitudes as the season advances. . . . This Eagle frequents Denmark, Sweden, the west coast of Norway, and from thence as far north as Iceland and Greenland, but is not found in North America. Mr. Temminck believes that this Eagle follows the flocks of geese that annually resort to the Arctic regions in summer to rear their young. It is found in Siberia, at Lake Baikal, and inhabits Russia, from whence to the southward it is spread over the European continent generally."

### **Haliaëtus leucocephalus (LINN.).**

#### **BALD EAGLE; AMERICAN EAGLE.**

- Aquila leucocephala*, BEISS. Orn. I, 422, 1760. — VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. iii, 1807.  
 — PALLAS, Zoog. Ross. As. I, 347, 1811. — SWAINSON, Classif. B. II, 207, 1837; Anim. Menag. 106, 1838. — S. LONGCH. Faun. Belg. 53, 1842. *Falco leucocephalus*, LINN. Syst. Nat. 124, 1766. — GMEL. Syst. Nat. 255, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. 11, 1790; Syn. I, 29, 1781; Supp. p. 9, 1802; Gen. Hist. I, 45, 1821. — PENN. Arct. Zool. pp. 194 and 196, 1785. — WILS. Am. Orn. pl. xxxvi, 1808. — TEMM. Man. Orn. pt. i, 52; pt. ii, 27, 1820; Tab. Méth. 3, 1836. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 78, 1809. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 26. — GREEN, Silliman's Am. Journ. IV, 89; Isis, 1832, p. 1136. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 160, 1831; Birds Am. pl. xxxi, 1831. — BREWER, (WILS.) Am. Orn. Synop. 683, 1852. *Haliaëtus leucocephalus*, SAVIG. — CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 326. — LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 40, 1831. — STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. 2, p. 13, 1826. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 21, 33, 1808. — JARD. (WILS.) Orn. II, 89, 307. — RICH. F. B. A. II, 15, 1831. — BENNETT, Gard. Zool. Soc. II, 37, 1831. — BONAP. Eur. & N. Am. B. 3, 1838; Cat. Ucc. Eur. 19, 1842; Consp. Av. 15, 1850; Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1854, p. 531. — MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 3. — BLAKISTON, Ibis, III, 1861, 320. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 328 (Texas, breeding). — GOULD, B. Eur. pl. xi, 1837. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 3, 1844; List Birds Brit. Mus. 2, 1844. — AUD. Synopsis Birds Am. 10, 1839. — NUTTALL, Man. Orn. U. S. & Canad. 72, 1833. —

PEARL, U. S. Expl. Exp. 71, 1845. — PEARL. Birds Mass. 73, 1841. — GIBAUD, Birds Long Island, 9, 1844. — WOODH. Sit. Expl. Zool. & Colon. 59, 1853. — CASSIN, B. Calif. & Tex. I, 111, 1854. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 5, pl. i, f. 1, 1844. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. VII, 30, 1857. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rept. VI, 75, 1857. — WERN. Atl. Ois. Eur. 1826. — BREHM, Vögel Deutschl. 17, 1831. — CASS. Birds N. Am. 1858, 43. — COOP. & SUCK. P. R. R. Rept. XII, ii, 151, 1860. — COUES, Prod. B. Ariz. 13, 1866. *Halictus leucoccephalus*, GRAY, Hand List, 1, 16 (1869). *Falco erudatus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. 258, 1789. — LATH. Ind. Orn. 14, 1790; Syn. I, 36, 1781; Gen. Hist. I, 240, 1821. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 51, 1800. — VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. I, 30, 1807. *Falco pygargus*, DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 62, 1800. *Falco ossifragus*, WILS. Am. Orn. pl. Iv, f. 2 (Juv.), 1808. *Falco leucogaster*, LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 242, 1821. *Faltrix albeilla*, FABER, Faun. Grœnl. 53, 1780. *Falco washingtoni*, AUD. Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 1, I, 1828, 115. — IB. Orn. Biog. I, 58; Birds Am. pl. xi. — BREWER, (WILS.) Am. Orn. 683. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. IV, 261. *Haliaeetus washingtoni*, JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. II, 92. — BONAP. List, 1838, 3. — GRAY, Gen. fol. sp. 4. — AUD. Synop. Birds Am. 10. — CASS. B. CAL. & TEX. 110. — IB. Birds N. Am. 1858, 42. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 51, No. 82. *Falco washingtonianus*, NUTT. MAN. pl. lxvii. *Haliaeetus leucoccephalus*, BREWER, Oölogy, 1851, 48, pl. iv, f. 37.

SP. CHAR. *Adult.* Entire head and neck, upper and lower tail-coverts, and tail, immaculate pure white. Rest of the plumage brownish-black, the feathers fading toward the edges, these paler borders being most conspicuous on the upper surface. Primaries uniform deep black. Bill, cere, superciliary shield, and feet, deep chrome-yellow; iris Naples-yellow. *Male* (12,017, Philadelphia; C. Drexler). Wing, 22.00; tail, 10.50; culmen, 1.90; top of cere, .80; depth of bill, 1.30; tarsus, 3.00; middle toe, 2.60; outer, 2.00; inner, 1.50; posterior, 1.30. Wing-formula, 3 = 4 - 5, 2 - 6; 1 = 7. *Female* (11,986, Philadelphia; C. Drexler). Wing, 25.00; tail, 12.75; culmen, 2.20; top of cere, .80; tarsus, 3.10; middle toe, 2.85. Wing-formula, 3 = 4, 5 - 2 - 6 - 7 - 1, 8. *Young.* Second year (?) (No. 58,977, Mount Carmel, Wabash County, Illinois, Dec.; D. Ridgway). Head and neck brownish-black, white beneath the surface, the penicillate ones of the nape tipped with pale brown. Prevailing color of other portions blackish-brown, inclining to umber on the dorsal region, wing-coverts, and lower parts; all the feathers white at their roots, this much exposed on the lower parts, where the brown forms tear-shaped terminal spots; axillars and lining of the wing white, each feather of the latter region with a medial lanceolate stripe of blackish-brown. Primaries and tail brownish-black; inner webs of secondaries and tail-feathers spattered longitudinally with creamy-white. Bill and cere black; iris brown; feet yellow. Wing, 25.50; tail, 15.00; culmen, 2.10; tarsus, 3.10; middle toe, 2.60.

*Young, first year* (No. 41,595, Eastern United States?). Whole plumage nearly uniformly black, this very continuous above; beneath, the basal white is much exposed, producing a somewhat spotted appearance. Primaries and tail deep black, the inner webs of the latter sprinkled with cream-color.

*Young in down* (Washington, D. C.). Downy covering uniform deep sooty-gray; the sprouting feathers on wings, etc., all brownish-black.

Specimens from the Pacific Coast have the plumage rather deeper black; but scarcely any other differences are appreciable. Measurements of specimens are as follows:—

"Male" (?) (45,838, Sitka; Bischoff). Wing, 24.50; tail, 12.50; culmen, 2.00.

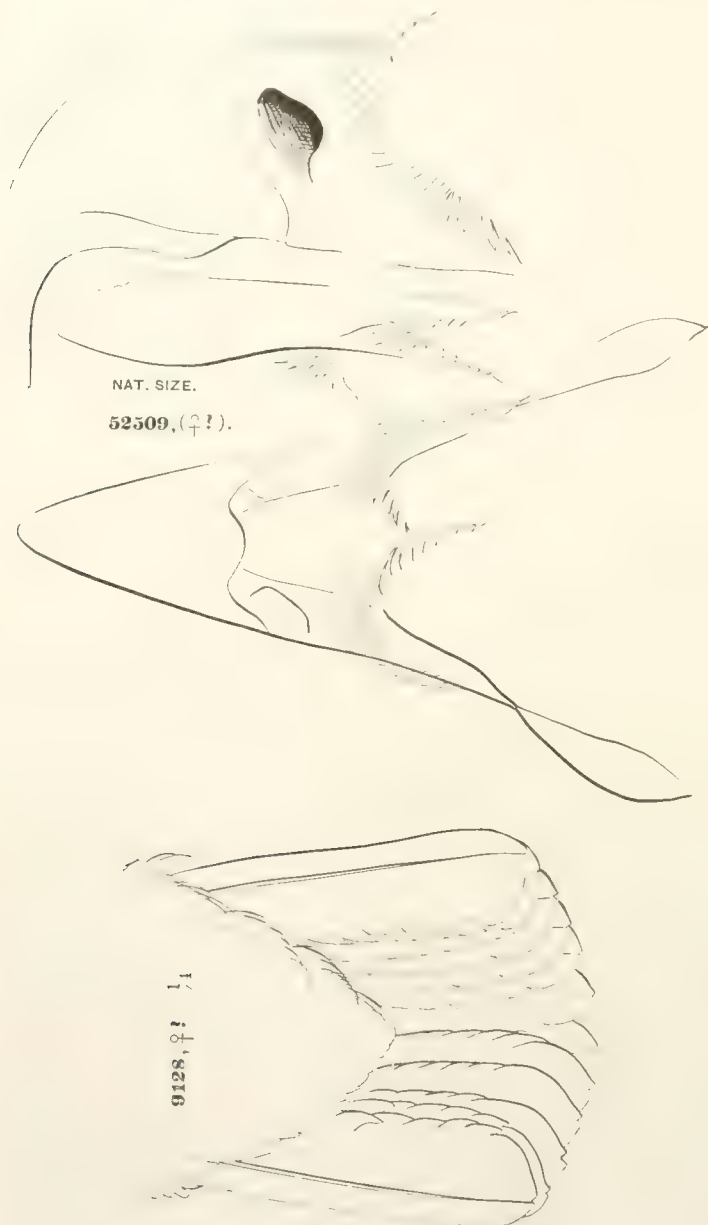
*Female* (45, 835), " " ), " 25.00; " 12.50; " 2.20.

Of these, the male is continuous deep black, the head, neck, tail, and tail-coverts pure white in sharp contrast; the female is less continuously black, — more so, however, than in eastern specimens: the white portions are as pure as in the male.

An immature bird (9,130, Shoalwater Bay, W. T., Feb.; Dr. Cooper) is almost like the Illinois specimen described, but is somewhat larger, measuring, wing, 26.00; tail, 15.00;



culmen, 2.20. It differs somewhat in plumage also, the lower parts being nearly uniformly light isabella-color, not variegated by the black spots; the whole wing (except the quills) is pale isabella-brown, the wing-coverts with terminal triangular spots of black; the back is also light-colored, like the wings.



*Haliaetus leuccephalus.*

*Hab.* Entire continent of North America, north of Mexico.

Localities quoted: Upper Texas; breeds (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 65). Western Arizona (COVES, P. A. N. S., 1866, 49).

## LIST OF SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

National Museum, 17; Philadelphia Academy, 14; Boston Society, 3; Museum Comparative Zoology, 3; Coll. R. Ridgway, 2; Coll. J. C. Sharp, Jr., 1; W. S. Brewer, 1. Total, 41.

## Measurements.

Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Crown.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Specimens.
♂ Ad.	20.00–23.00	11.00–13.00	1.85–2.00	2.65–3.40	2.35–2.65	10
♂ Juv.	23.50–25.00	12.00–15.25	1.95–2.20	3.20–3.30	2.70–2.90	5
♀ Ad.	23.50–25.00	12.50–13.50	1.90–2.20	3.40–3.60	2.55–2.80	7
♀ Juv.	25.50–26.00	15.00–15.50	2.10–2.20	3.25–3.70	2.55–3.10	2

The “Bird of Washington” of Audubon was, without the least doubt, a very large immature female, in about the second year: the discrepancies between Audubon’s figure and description, and the real characters of the young Bald Eagle, are very probably the result of carelessness and faulty memory; the stretch of wing of “10 feet 2 inches” is, no doubt, an exaggeration; and the peculiar scutellation of the tarsus, as exhibited in his plate, was as certainly caused by this portion of the figure being worked up from memory. The probability is also that the description was made up, or at least very much added to, from this plate, as there is no record of Mr. Audubon’s specimens having been preserved. It is by no means strange that persons should consider these large grayish Eagles a different species from the smaller white-headed ones, since their proportions are as different as their colors; and throughout the country, unscientific people, and among them experienced hunters, distinguish the three stages described above as the “bald,” “big gray,” and “black” Eagles. Nothing is more certain, however, than that all are only different stages of one and the same bird.

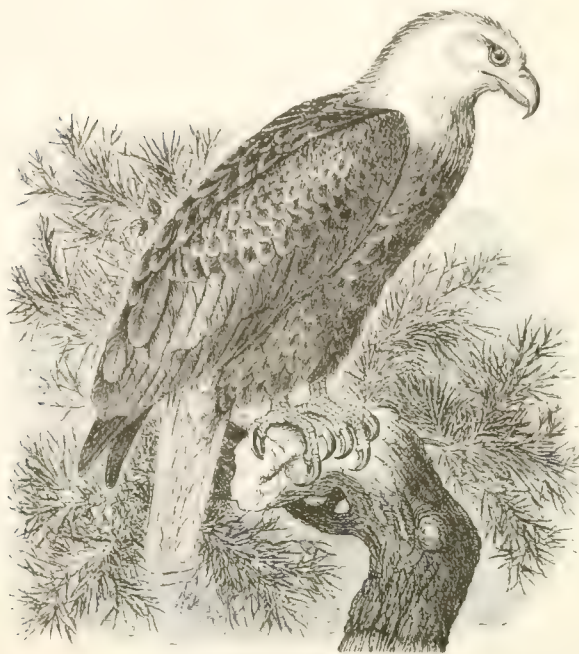
In the preceding table of measurements the old and immature specimens are given separately, in order to prove the remarkable fact that the latter have longer wings and tails than the former. This feature is not confined to the present bird, however, but applies as a general rule to all *Falconidæ*.

**HABITS.** The White-headed Eagle is widely diffused throughout the North American continent, from about latitude 58° north to the Gulf of Mexico and Central America.

Sir John Richardson, in *Fauna Boreali-Americana* (Vol. II, p. 15), states that he did not meet with this species north of 62°, although he found it common between that point and Lake Superior. He also states that they leave the fur-countries in October, when the rivers are frozen. Subsequently, in his expedition overland to the Arctic Seas, in 1848, he found occasion to change his first impressions quite materially. He gives it as abundant at Half-Moon Lake, in latitude 56° north. He also speaks of finding both the Osprey and White-headed Eagle building their nests on the banks of Bear Lake River, in about 60° north. We find in his notes, that White-headed Eagles made their appearance at Fort Confidence, latitude 66° 54', as early

as May 17, before the ice had given way in the rivers; and in his tables of phenomena observed at the Cumberland House, in latitude  $54^{\circ}$ , we also observe that a White-headed Eagle was seen as early as the 24th of March, "being almost always the first of the summer birds which arrives."

Mr. MacFarlane found these Eagles breeding on Lockhart River, latitude



*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*

$67^{\circ} 30'$ , but does not regard it as abundant in that locality, and from the information he has received from the Indians, he presumes latitude  $68^{\circ}$  to be its extreme northern range. In the following year, 1862, this supposition was in part confirmed by his finding a pair breeding on the same river, near its junction with the Anderson, in latitude  $68^{\circ}$  north. Mr. B. R. Ross states that it ranges to the Arctic Circle, and is numerous around Great Slave and Bear Lakes. It proved to

very common at Sitka, where Bischoff obtained a number of specimens.

Dr. Cooper, during his journey northward to the 49th degree, found this one of the most abundant birds of the Falcon tribe in Washington Territory, particularly along the Columbia River. It is a constant resident in the Territory, and is said to lay its eggs as early as February. He saw large numbers along the Columbia, sitting on some log or cliff over the water. He never met with it about high mountain tops nor on the plains east of the Rocky Mountains.

Dr. Newberry met with this Eagle in the interior of Northern California, along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. He found it very common at the Cascades of the Columbia, at the Falls of the Willamette, and still more abundant about the chain of lakes in the Klamath basin, and also in the Cascade Range, among the mountain lakes, and wherever fish was attainable. They exhibited little shyness, and were easily brought within rifle range.

In Florida, Mr. Allen found this bird very common, breeding as early as January. It was very abundant on the upper St. John's, and especially so at Lake Monroe. It is also equally common in Texas, according to Dresser,

especially near the headwaters of some of the rivers. He was told by his guide, Westfall, that in passing a distance of forty miles he had noticed eight nests. It also breeds on the Altacosa. Dr. Woodhouse found these birds, but nowhere very abundant, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, along his entire route, and Dr. Coues observed them near Fort Whipple.

The statements of Temminck that this Eagle has been taken accidentally in Central Europe, Switzerland, and Germany, and also that it breeds in Northwestern Europe, are not now credited; and more recent scrutiny of these supposed facts cast discredit upon them, and show that there is no well-authenticated instance of its having been detected in Europe.

The White-headed Eagle appears to be equally well adapted by nature for the endurance of heat or cold, and is apparently indifferent to either. Its residence is influenced only by its abundance of food, especially that of fish; and it seems to matter very little whether that plenty is procurable within the Arctic Circle or on the coast and rivers of Florida and Texas. In places like the Falls of Niagara, where the stream is ever liable to contribute the remains of animals destroyed by the descent of the torrent, this Eagle is especially abundant. Unscrupulous, greedy, voracious, not select in its choice of food, and capable of providing for itself when necessity compels, we find this not altogether unsuitable emblem of our country now enacting the tyrant and robber and plundering the Fishhawk of the fruits of its industry, now sharing with the Raven and the Vulture the dead salmon of the Columbia, and in other places diving for and catching its own fish. The impetuosity and skill with which it pursues, overtakes, and robs the Fishhawk, bearing off a fish it has just taken, must be witnessed to be appreciated; and the swiftness with which the Eagle can dart down upon and seize the booty, which the Hawk has been compelled to let fall, before it reaches the water, is not the least wonderful feature of this striking performance. On the banks of the Columbia, where there are no Fishhawks to depend upon, this bird finds an easy subsistence on the vast numbers of dead and dying salmon which abound; and in Florida Mr. Allen has observed it dive and catch its own fish. This is also confirmed by the statements of other naturalists. Wilson also accuses this Eagle of destroying great numbers of young pigs in the Southern States, young lambs, and even sickly sheep; and in one instance it attempted to carry off a child, which was only saved by its dress giving way.

The White-headed Eagle breeds along the Atlantic coast from the St. Lawrence to Florida, and thence westward to Mexico along the coast and among the tributaries of the Gulf. In the interior it breeds as far north as the Arctic Circle.

Richardson states that it abounds in the watery districts of Rupert's Land, and a nest may be looked for within every twenty or thirty miles. Each pair appropriates a certain range of country, on which they are said to suffer no intruders of their own species to encroach; but the nest of the Osprey is



often placed at no great distance from that of the Eagle. Some of the voyagers had the curiosity to visit an Eagle's nest, which was built on the cleft summit of a balsam poplar, of sticks, many of them as thick as a man's wrist. It contained two young birds, well fledged, with a good store of fish in a very odoriferous condition. While the men were climbing the tree, the female parent hovered close around, and threatened an attack on the invaders; but the male kept aloof, making circles high in the air.

In California, where the rocky coast is destitute of convenient trees, the White-headed Eagle resorts to rocky cliffs as the safest and most convenient places for nesting. We have the authority of Richardson for the same deviation from its usual resort to trees in parts of the fur-countries where the latter are wanting. The climate apparently exerts a certain influence, though not so much as might be supposed. In the Southern States it nests seven weeks earlier than in Maine, in both of which regions it is resident throughout the year. Farther north, where the severity of the cold, by closing the ponds and rivers with solid ice, places their food beyond their reach, and where they are only visitants in the warmer season, they, of course, nest still later, for the reason that they do not reach these regions until after the breeding season of more southern birds of the species.

In the extreme Southern States, as in California, the White-headed Eagle breeds as early as February. In Maine, the general impression has been that the eggs are not deposited before May, and at a still later period in the more northern portions of the United States. More recent observations show this to be incorrect, and that these birds breed at a much earlier season of the year. Mr. Audubon speaks of having once shot a female on her eggs, near the Mississippi, as early as the 17th of January. Dr. Gambel found White-headed Eagles nesting on the cliffs along the shores of the Pacific in February and March.

Having occasion to visit the State of Maine in April, 1856, near the Damariscotta River, the banks of which stream are frequented by these birds on account of the abundance of fish, I was informed that a pair had constructed a nest in a neighboring wood, which they had occupied for several successive years. The previous season (1855), late in May, my informant had climbed a tree in the immediate neighborhood, commanding a full view of the nest. It then contained young nearly grown. From this statement I was led to conclude that there was no time to be lost if we would secure the eggs before hatching. We accordingly visited the nest on the 27th of April, and found it situated on a tall pine, at least sixty feet from the ground. The tree stood in a swampy wood, within a few rods of the stage road, and not more than half a mile from the village of Damariscotta. It contained no limbs or branches to facilitate ascent for at least the distance of thirty feet, and the trunk at the base was from six to nine feet in circumference, rendering it impossible to mount the tree by the aid only of the hands and feet. My assistant was, however, drawn up, by means of a rope

fastened round his body, to a height where the branches of the tree rendered the remainder of the ascent comparatively easy. While he was ascending, we observed several Eagles flying over our heads, but at a great height. One only approached us; but, as soon as we were noticed, the bird made a precipitate retreat. It was apparently conveying food to the nest, and was not at first aware of our presence; after which it hovered at a distance, uttering hoarse, disagreeable cries of displeasure, not unlike the imperfect barking of a dog. No attempt was made to molest or interrupt the man as he ascended to, or after he had reached, the nest. We found, when he had climbed to the nest, that the female had been sitting upon it all the while, and only left when the unwelcome caller was near enough to have reached her with his hands. She too flew over the man's head in somewhat close proximity, uttering frequent cries of distress, but made no effort whatever to attack him.

The nest was found to contain no egg, and but a single bird, apparently about a fortnight old. It was some six or seven inches in length, its weight between one and two pounds, and its head and claws disproportionately large. It was covered uniformly with a thick, close, and soft downy plumage, which was of a clean deep straw-color. There was not the least admixture of gray or brown. The young bird was completely helpless, and uttered almost constant cries for food. It ate readily whenever fish or meat was offered it, but was unable to support itself upon its legs. It was taken to my host's house, where it was well cared for, and for a while, with careful attention, it did well and grew apace, manifesting a most inordinate and insatiable appetite.

The nest was described to me by my assistant as a platform between five and six feet in diameter, and at least four in thickness. It was constructed of regular layers of large sticks, each several feet in length, and from an inch to an inch and a half in thickness. Its surface was perfectly flat, and was "finished off," to use his expression, with tufts of grass, dry leaves, mosses, lichens, small twigs, etc., etc. He found in it, by the side of the young Eagle, four or five large eels, each of which was about two feet in length, showing that the parent birds provide liberally for their own wants and those of their young.

Estimating the age of the young Eagle at ten days, and allowing four weeks for incubation, and at least one week's interval between the deposition and the commencement of the parent bird's sitting upon it, we have very nearly the exact period at which the egg was laid, March 13.

This occurred at the coldest period of the season, when the ground was covered with snow to an unusual depth, and when the thermometer indicated a temperature at that time frequently as low as 15° below zero.

The nest is usually of great size, composed of sticks from three to five feet in length, pieces of turf, weeds, and moss. Its diameter is about five feet, and its depth is not unfrequently as great. In the warmer localities, where it breeds, the pair usually frequent the same nest throughout the year, and

make it their permanent place of resort. This is also true, probably, wherever this Eagle remains throughout the year. Mr. T. H. Jackson, of West Chester, Pa., informs me that he met with three fresh eggs of this species in Maryland, on the 11th of February, 1871.

The eggs are usually two, sometimes three or four, in number; they are nearly spherical, equally rounded at either end, and more or less granulated on their surface. Their color is a dull white, unspotted, but often stained by incubation to a dirty white or a light soiled drab. Two eggs in my collection present the following measurements: Length 3 inches, breadth 2.75; length 2.88 inches, breadth 2.80. The first was obtained in New Jersey by Alexander Wilson, the ornithologist; the latter by Dr. Trudeau, in Louisiana.

Another, taken from a nest in Texas by Dr. Heermann, measured 2.80 by 2.20 inches. A fourth, from Sitka, measures 2.75 by 2.25 inches. These measurements, so far as they may be taken as typical, exhibit but little variation in size between the most northern and the most southern specimens.

Several nests were met with and the eggs taken by Mr. MacFarlane near Anderson River. They were generally built in high trees not far from riverbanks. In a few instances the parents made hostile demonstrations when their nests were robbed, but generally kept at a safe distance, uttering loud and discordant sounds. The nests were built of dry sticks and decayed branches, and lined with deer's hair, mosses, hay, and other similar soft materials.

Mr. Dall was informed by the Indians that this species breeds among the Alaskan mountains on inaccessible cliffs. This statement, however, may have had reference to the Golden Eagle.



*Falco columbarius* (Europe), p. 138.

FAMILY **CATHARTIDÆ**. — THE AMERICAN VULTURES.

*Cathartidae*. GRAY, 1842. HUXLEY, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 463. *Cathartinae*, LAFFR. 1839.  
*Sarcorhamphidae*, GRAY, 1848. *Geophina*, REICH. 1850.

The characters of this family have been given in sufficient detail (III, 1), so that a short diagnosis, showing its most readily observable peculiarities, will here be sufficient.

CHAR. Whole head, and sometimes the neck, naked; eyes prominent, and not shaded by a superciliary shield. Cere much elongated, much depressed anteriorly below the very arched culmen; nostrils longitudinal, horizontal, the two confluent or perforate. Middle toe very long, and the hind one much abbreviated. A web between the base of the inner and middle toes.

The family *Vulturidæ*,<sup>1</sup> as long recognized, included all the naked-headed, carrion-feeding *Raptores* of both the Old and the New World. The later researches of science, however, have shown the necessity of separating the Vultures of the latter continent from those of the former, and ranking them as a distinct family, while at the same time the Old World Vultures are found to be merely modified *Falconidæ*. The resemblance between the *Cathartidæ* and the vulturine *Falconidæ* is merely a superficial one of analogy, and not one of affinity. Being the scavengers of the countries they inhabit, the latter thus perform the same office in nature as the former, and for adaptation to a similar mode of life their external characters are modified to correspond. Close, however, as is the external resemblance between the two groups, their osteological structure and internal anatomy is entirely different.

The *Cathartidæ* differ from the *Vulturinæ*<sup>2</sup> as to their external structure in the following particulars, the osteological structure being entirely different in the two groups, the latter being like the *Falconidæ* in all the characters which separate the latter family from the *Cathartidæ*.

**Cathartidæ.** Nostrils horizontal, perforate; a well-developed web between the inner and middle toes, at the base.

**Vulturinæ.** Nostrils vertical, not perforate; no trace of web between inner and middle toes.

In habits, the *Cathartidæ* resemble the vulturine *Falconidæ* of the Old World. "They lack the strength and spirit of typical *Raptores*, and rarely attack animals capable of offering resistance; they are voracious and indiscriminate gormandizers of carrion and animal refuse of all sorts,—efficient and almost indispensable scavengers in the warm countries where they abound. They are uncleanly in their mode of feeding; the nature of their food renders them ill-scented, and when disturbed they eject the fetid contents

<sup>1</sup> Established by Vigors, in 1825.

<sup>2</sup> From the *Vulturinæ* are excluded the genera *Gypsetus* and *Neophron*, each of which probably constitutes a subfamily by itself.



of the crop. Although not truly gregarious, they assemble in multitudes where food is plenty, and some species breed in communities. When gorged, they appear heavy and indisposed to exertion, usually passing the period of digestion motionless, in a listless attitude, with their wings half spread. But they spend most of the time on wing, circling high in the air; their flight is easy and graceful in the extreme, and capable of being indefinitely protracted. On the ground, they habitually walk instead of progressing by leaps. Possessing no vocal apparatus, the Vultures are almost mute, emitting only a weak hissing sound." (COUES.)

The *Cathartidae* all belong to the tropical and warm temperate portions of the continent, only one species (*Rhinogryphus aura*) extending its range as far as the border of the colder regions. The famous Condor (*Sarcorhamphus gryphus*) of the Andes and the equally large California species (*Pseudogryphus californianus*) are among the largest birds of flight in the world, being

exceeded in size by none, and rivalled but by one or two of the Vultures of the Eastern Hemisphere.

The following diagnoses based upon the external structure are sufficient to characterize the very well-marked genera and subgenera of this family. The distinctive osteological characters which accompany these external features afford still more decided differences, and are illustrated by the figures.



*S. gryphus*, ♂, Chile 1/3 nat. size



*S. japa*, ♀, Mazatlan 1/4 nat. size.

### Genera and Subgenera.

**A.** Crop naked. Male with a fleshy crest, or lobe, attached to the top of the cere. Bill very robust and strong, its outlines very convex; cere much shorter than the beak.

1. **Sarcorhamphus.** Entire neck bare; nasal cavity entirely open; posterior claw very thick and strongly curved. Tail even.

Sexes different, the female lacking any fleshy caruncles, or appendages, on the head and neck. Frontal lobe, or fleshy crest of male, extending from the anterior border of the cere to the middle of the crown; throat with a median wattle, or "dewlap"; side of the neck with a somewhat convoluted or twisted caruncle, extending from the side of the occiput

obliquely downward, across the neck to near the lower extremity of the gular wattle; lower part of the foreneck with a pendent fleshy appendage. Plumage beginning below the neck by a crescentic ruff of soft white down, or cottony feathers, around the posterior portion. Primaries longer than the secondaries; front of the tibio-tarsal joint feathered . . . . . *Sarcorhamphus*.<sup>1</sup>

Sexes alike, the female possessing the caruncular appendages of the head as well as the male. Frontal lobe attached to only the middle portion of the cere, above the nostril; throat without a median wattle; side of the neck without any caruncles; no appendage on the foreneck; auricular region with longitudinal corrugations, and occiput densely haired. Plumage beginning below the neck by a ruff of broad, well-developed, normal feathers. Primaries not longer than the secondaries. Front of the tibio-tarsal joint naked . . . . . *Cathartes*.<sup>2</sup>

**B.** Crop feathered. Male without a fleshy crest, or other appendages, on the head. Bill less robust, variable as to strength, its outlines only moderately convex; cere nearly equal to the head in length. Sexes alike.

*a.* Entire neck bare; plumage commencing abruptly in a ruff of lanceolate, or penicillate feathers, these continued on the breast and abdomen. Head much elongated, the upper outline a slightly convex plane, the forehead depressed below the level of the very elevated dorsal outline of the cere. Posterior claw very thick and strongly curved.

**2. Pseudogryphus.** Nostril occupying only the posterior third of the nasal orifice, its anterior end acute. Bill weak, the terminal hook only slightly developed, the mandibles broader than deep, the lower as deep as the upper. Head and neck without corrugations or caruncles. Tarsus slightly longer than the middle toe; fourth or fifth quill longest; extremities of the quills reaching to or beyond the end of the tail. Tail even. (*P. californianus*.)

*b.* Only the upper half, or less, of the neck bare; plumage commencing gradually with normal, broad feathers; feathers of breast and abdomen broad and normal. Head only moderately elongated, the upper outline irregular, the forehead elevated above the dorsal outline of the cere. Bill strong, the terminal hook well developed. Posterior claw weaker, less curved.

**3. Rhinogryphus.** Nostril occupying the whole of the nasal cavity, its anterior end broadly rounded; cere as deep as broad, the upper and lower outlines divergent posteriorly, the former considerably arched; lower mandible much less deep than the upper. Skin of the neck without corrugations; a semicircular tuft of antrorse radiating bristles in front of the eye. Wing very long, the primaries reaching to or beyond the end of the tail. Tail much rounded. (*R. aura* and *R. burrovianus*.)

**4. Catharista.** Nostril occupying only the posterior half of the nasal cavity, its anterior end contracted and acute; cere depressed, much wider than deep, its upper and lower outlines parallel, the former not perceptibly arched; lower mandible as deep as the upper; skin of the neck transversely corrugated; no tuft of bristles in front of the eye. Wing short, the primaries reaching scarcely to the middle of the tail. Tail even, or slightly emarginate. (*C. atratus*.)

<sup>1</sup> *Sarcorhamphus*, DUMÉRIL, 1806. (Type, *Falco gryphus*, LINN.)

<sup>2</sup> *Cathartes*, ILLIGER, 1811. (Type, *Falco papa*, LINN.) *Gypopsis*, VIEILL. 1816. (Same type.) *Gyparchus*, GLOG. 1842. (Same type.) *Sarcorhamphus*, AUCT. (in part.)

GENUS **PSEUDOGRYPHUS**, RIDGWAY.*Cathartes*, Auct. (in part.)

GEN. CHAR. Size very large, and aspect vulturine. Head much elongated, with regular

*Pseudogryphus californianus*.  $\frac{1}{2}$  nat. size.

outlines; the entire head and neck bare of feathers, the skin faintly wrinkled, but free from corrugations or caruncles. Nostril small, occupying only the posterior third, or less, of the nasal orifice, its anterior end acute. Plumage beginning at the bottom of the neck in a ruff of lanceolate, acuminate feathers, these continued over the breast and abdomen. Wings very large, the primaries and secondaries well developed, the former longest, and reaching to, or beyond, the end of the tail; fourth or fifth quill longest; outer five with inner webs appreciably sinuated. Tail even. Sexes alike.

The single species composing this very distinct genus belongs to Western North America, and, so far as known, has the most restricted distribution of any large raptorial bird in the world. It is remarkable for its very large size, all its dimensions nearly, if not quite, equalling those of the famed Condor of the Andes (*Sarcorhamphus gryphus*).

**Pseudogryphus californianus** (SHAW).**CALIFORNIA CONDOR, OR VULTURE.**

*Vultur californianus*, SHAW, Nat. Misc. IV, pl. cccI, 1797; Zool. VII, 10, 1809. — LATH. Syn. Supp. II, 3, 1802; Ind. Orn. Supp. 2; Gen. Hist. I, 7. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. IV, 259, 1831. — DOUGL. Zool. Journ. IV, 328; Isis, 1831, 110. — REICH. Prakt. Nat. Vög. p. 18. *Cathartes californianus*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 316, 1829. — BONAPARTE, Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 221; Isis, 1832, 1135; List, 1; Consp. Av. 9. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, 206, 1837. — RANZ. Elem. di Zool. III, 23. — GRAY, Gen. B. sp. 3, pl. ii. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 3, 1844. — NUTT. Man. I, 39, 1833. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cccxxvi, 1831; Orn. Biog. V, 240; Synop. p. 2, 1839. — BREW. (WILS.) Synop. p. 832, 1852. — PEALE, U. S. Expl. Exp. VIII, 58. — STRICKL. Orn. Syn. I, 3, 1855. — KAUP, Thiert. p. 229. — CASSIN, Birds N. Am. 1858, 5. — HEERM. P. R. R. Rept. II, 29, 1855. — NEWB. P. R. R. Rept. VI, 73, 1857. — COOP. & SUCK. XII, ii, 141, 1860. — COUES, Prod. Orn. Ariz. p. 6, 1866. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 3, 1869. — TAYLOR, Hutchins's Cala. Mag. III, 1859, 537 (fig. of egg and young). — GURNEY, Cat. Rapt. B. 1864, 39. — SCLAT. P. Z. S. 1866, 366 (with fig. from life); 1868, 183 (fig. of young from life, same specimen). — COUES, Key, 1872, 222. *Catharista californianus*, GRAY, List B. Brit. Mus. p. 4, 1844. *Sarcorhamphus californicus*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, 6, 1815. — VIC. Zool. Journ. II, 375. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 1, 1831. — LICHT. Orn. Calif. p. 8, pl. i. *Cathartes vulturinus*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 31, 1820. — LESS. Man. Orn. VII, 10, 1828.

SP. CHAR. Wing, 30.00–35.00; tail, 15.00–18.00; culmen, about 1.50; length of head, 6.50–7.00; tarsus, about 4.50–5.00; middle toe, 4.00–4.50; outer, 3.10; inner,

3.60; posterior, 1.10; middle claw (longest), 1.50; posterior (shortest), 1.90. Total length, .45-.50; extent of wings, about 9 or 10 feet.

*Adult.* Bill yellowish white; naked skin of the head and neck orange and red; iris carmine (authors). General plumage dull black, the upper surface with a faint bluish lustre, the feathers (excepting the primary coverts, secondary coverts, and remiges) passing into dull brownish on their margins, producing a squamate appearance. Scapulars and (more appreciably) the secondaries and their coverts with a hoary grayish cast, the latter white for most of their exposed portions (producing a band across the wing), the white following the edges of the secondaries nearly to their ends; primaries and tail-feathers, with their shafts, uniform deep black. Whole lining of the wing (except the outer border) and axillars pure white. Lower parts continuous dull carbonaceous-black, the tips of the penicillate feathers with a hoary or chalky tinge. (No. 41,649, Monterey, California; Dr. C. A. Canfield. Wing, 32.00; tail, 15.00; culmen, 1.50; depth of bill, 1.20; length of head, 7.00; cere, on top, 2.90; point of bill to anterior end of nostril, 2.50; tarsus, 5.00; middle toe, 4.20.)

*Young.* Bill dusky; naked skin of the head and neck dusky, and more or less covered with soft, grayish down. Plumage duller black, with the white wholly absent. (No. 41,707, Monterey; C. A. Canfield. Measurements as in the last.)

Localities: Fort Yuma (COUES, Pr. Ac. Nat. Sc. 1866, 42).

HAB. Pacific Coast region from mouth of the Colorado to the Columbia? Southern Utah (HENSCHAW).

HABITS. This large Vulture, so far as is known, is restricted to the area on the Pacific Coast from the Columbia River to the Colorado, and extending as far to the east as the Sierra Nevada. None are known to have been taken in Mexico, and it very rarely goes north of the Columbia. It is said to be most common in the hot interior valleys of California, where are large herds of cattle, upon which it, to a large extent, depends for its food. Dr. Cooper saw none on the Colorado, and met with none east of the San Bernardino Mountains. Even at Fort Mohave the cattle killed during the five months he resided there did not attract one of these Vultures.

Dr. Cooper did not see these birds in any number along the sea-coast, and has noticed none on the islands or in the highest Sierra Nevada. Yet they are said, when other food is scarce, to feed on dead seals and whales; but this fact he has never witnessed.

Dr. Newberry states that it was to him a pleasant portion of every day's experience, in his march through the Sacramento Valley, to watch the graceful evolutions of this Vulture. In its colors the combination was a pleasing one, while its flight was easy and effortless beyond that of any other bird. Though a common bird in California, he found it much more shy and difficult to shoot than its associate, the Turkey-Buzzard; and it was never seen in such numbers or exhibiting such familiarity as the smaller species which swarm, and are such efficient scavengers, in our southern cities. After his party left the Sacramento Valley, he saw very few in the Klamath Basin, and met with none within the limits of Oregon. It is occasionally found there, but much more rarely than in California.

Dr. Newberry states that a fine specimen presented to Dr. Sterling on his return to San Francisco ate freely of the meat given him, and was for some



time kept alive. It was, however, impatient of confinement, and succeeded in tearing the cord that confined him from his legs, and in making his escape. Dr. Cooper also saw one of these Vultures in confinement, at Monterey, in the possession of Dr. Canfield. This was a full-grown individual which he had raised from the nest. It had been fed exclusively on fresh meat, had no offensive smell, and was clean and shining. It was gentle and familiar,



*Pseudograpus californianus.*

but seemed stupid, and dozed most of the time on a fence. This was subsequently presented to the Zoological Society of London, and formed the subject of our figure. The figure of the young bird on the next page is taken from a photograph of the same specimen at an early age.

Dr. Heermann, in his Report on Lieutenant Williamson's Survey, mentions having observed this Vulture sailing majestically in wide circles at a great height, and ranging by its powers of flight over an immense space of coun-

try in search of food. Often when hunting in the Tejon Valley, if unsuccessful, they would be several hours without seeing one of this species; but as soon as they succeeded in bringing down any large game, these birds would be seen rising above the horizon before the body had grown cold, and slowly sweeping towards them, intent upon their share of the game. In the absence of the hunter, unless well protected, these marauders will be sure to drag out from its concealment the slain animal, even though carefully covered with branches. Dr. Heermann states that he has known them to drag out and devour a deer within an hour. This Vulture possesses immense muscular power. Dr. Heermann has known four of them to drag the body of a young grizzly bear, that weighed over a hundred pounds, the distance of two hundred yards. Dr. Cooper states that it visits the Columbia River in autumn, when its shores are lined with great numbers of dead salmon, on which, in company with other birds and various animals, it feasts for a couple of months. He considered it, however, only a visitor at certain seasons, and not a resident even through the summer. He did not see it, nor did he hear of its presence at Puget Sound.



*Pseudogyps californianus.*

It is stated by Douglas that these Vultures will in no instance attack any living animal unless it be so severely wounded as to be unable to walk. Their senses of sight and smell are very acute, especially the former; and when searching for prey they soar to a very great height, and if they chance to discover a wounded animal they immediately follow and attack it whenever it sinks down. The first comers are soon followed by others, and it is not long before the carcass is reduced to a skeleton. After thus feeding, they remain for a while sluggish and reluctant to move. At these times they perch on dead trees, with their heads drawn down, and their wings drooping over their feet. Except after feeding, or when protecting their nests, they are said to be very wary, and are with great difficulty shot by the hunter. Their flight is described as slow, steady, and graceful, and they glide along with little or no perceptible motion of the wings, the tips of which are curved upward in flying, in the manner of the Turkey-Buzzard. They are said to appear most numerous and to soar the highest preceding thunder-storms and tempests.

Dr. Townsend states that in their walk they resemble a Turkey strutting over the ground with great dignity, but are clumsy and awkward when they endeavor to hasten their movements. When they attempt to rise from the ground they always hop several yards, in order to give an impetus to their heavy body. Dr. Cooper discredits the statement of Mr. Taylor, that this Vulture has been known to kill and carry off a hare in its claws. These are straight and weak, and not adapted for such uses.

Dr. Heermann states that a nest of this bird with young was discovered in a thicket on the Tuolumne River. It was about eight feet back from the entrance of a crevice in the rocks, completely surrounded and masked by thick underbrush and trees, and composed of a few loose sticks thrown negligently together. He found two other nests, of a like construction and similarly situated, at the head of Merced River and in the mountains. From the latter the Indians were in the habit of yearly robbing the young, to kill at one of their festivals.

Mr. Alexander S. Taylor, of Monterey, published a series of papers in a California journal relative to this Vulture. In one of these he mentions that a Mexican *ranchero*, in hunting among the highest peaks of the Santa Lucia range, disturbed two pairs of them from their nesting-places, and brought away from one a young bird a few days old, and from the other an egg. There was no nest, the eggs having been laid in the hollow of a tall old robles-oak, in a steep *barranca*, near the summit of one of the highest peaks. These birds are said by some hunters to make no nest, but simply lay their eggs on the ground at the foot of old trees or on the bare rocks of solitary peaks. Others affirm that they sometimes lay their eggs in old nests of Eagles and Buzzards. Mr. Taylor states that the egg weighed 10.50 ounces, the contents weighing 8.75. The egg was of a dead dull white color, the surface of the shell slightly roughened. It was nearly a perfect ellipse in shape, and measured 4.50 inches in length by 2.38 in diameter. The egg-shell held nine fluid ounces of water. The young Vulture weighed ten ounces. His skin was of an ocreous-yellow, covered with a fine down of a dull white.

Dr. Canfield informed Dr. Cooper that he has seen as many as one hundred and fifty of these birds at one time and place in the vicinity of antelopes he had killed, and noticed that they invariably sighted their prey. They are often killed by feeding on animals that have been poisoned with strychnine. They are not feared by the *rancheros*, yet Dr. Canfield has known a number to attack a young calf, separate it from its mother, and kill it. A *vaquero* having killed a large grizzly bear, left it on the plains near the seashore, to return to the house, about three miles distant, for assistance. On his return, after an absence of about two hours, a flock of these Vultures had cleaned the entire carcass, leaving only the skin and the skeleton. This Vulture and the Turkey-Buzzard often feed together over the same carcass, and generally do some fighting together. Many of them nest in the high mountains east and south of the Carmelo Valley, and also near Santa Cruz,

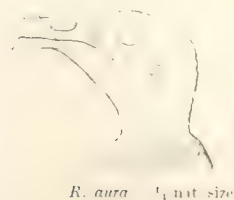
as well as in the Santa Lucia range, and are found there throughout the year, but in greater numbers from July to November.

An egg of this species, in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution (9,983), from San Rafael, California, obtained by Dr. C. A. Canfield, measures 4.40 inches in length by 2.50 in breadth. It is of an elongate-oval shape, but is decidedly more pointed at the smaller than at the larger end. In color it is of a uniform pale greenish-blue, almost an ashy greenish-white, and without spots.

# GENUS **RHINOGRYPHUS**, RIDGWAY.

*Cathartes*, AUCI. (in part). (Type, *Falco aura*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Size medium (about equal to *Neophron*), the wings and tail well developed, the remiges very long and large. Head and upper portion of the neck naked; the skin smooth, or merely wrinkled; a semicircular patch of antrorse bristles before the eye. Nostril very large, with both ends broadly rounded, occupying the whole of the nasal orifice. Cere contracted anteriorly, and as deep as broad; lower mandible not so deep as the upper. Plumage beginning gradually on the neck, with broad, rounded, normal feathers. Ends of primaries reaching beyond the end of the tail; third or fourth quill longest; outer five with inner webs appreciably sinuated. Tail much rounded; middle toe slightly longer than the tarsus. Sexes alike.



*R. aura* 1/4 nat size



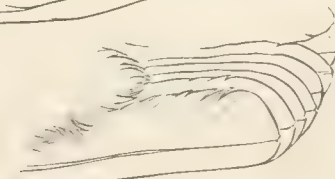
*R. aura* (1/4)



*R. aura* (1/4)



*Neophron pernopterus*. (1/4)



*Rhinogryphus aura* (1/4)

The species of this genus are only two in number, one of them (*aura*) ex-



tending over the whole of America, with the exception of the colder portions; the other (*burrovianus*) confined to the eastern tropical region. They may be distinguished as follows:—

### Species.

**COMMON CHARACTERS.** General plumage nearly uniform blackish; no white. *Adult.* Bill white; head reddish. *Young.* Bill and head dusky, or blackish.

1. **R. *aura*.** Upper half of the neck bare all round. Feathers of the upper surface with brown borders. Wing, 20.00–23.00; tail, about 12.00. *Hab.* Entire continent and islands of America, except the colder portions.

2. **R. *burrovianus*.**<sup>1</sup> Only the head and throat naked, the feathers of the neck extending up to the occiput. Feathers of the upper surface without brown borders. Wing, 18.00–18.50; tail, 9.00. *Hab.* Eastern Tropical America (Brazil; Eastern Mexico??).

## Rhinogryphus aura LINN.).

### TURKEY-BUZZARD; RED-HEADED VULTURE.

*Vultur aura*, LINN. Syst. Nat. 122, 1766. — Gmel. Syst. Nat. 246, 1789. — LATH. Syn. I, 9; Syn. Supp. I, 2; Ind. Orn. 4. — Gen. Hist. I, 12, pl. iii. — PENN. Acad. Zool. I, 221. — BART. Trav. Carol. p. 285. — VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. ii. — ORD (WILS.) Am. Orn. pl. lxxv, f. 1. — AUD. Edin. New. Phil. Journ. II, 172. — DARW. Journ. Res. p. 68. — WAGL. Isis, 1831, 517. — SHAW, Zool. VII, 36. — SELLS, Proc. Zool. Soc. pt. v, p. 33; Mag. Nat. Ser. 2, I, 638. — LEDRU, Voy. Ténérif. Trinit. etc. II, 264. *Cathartes aura*, ILLIG. Prod. Syst. 236, 1811. — CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 1), 308; (ed. 2) I, 317. — SPIX, Av. Bras. I, 2. — VIG. Zool. Journ. — LESS. Man. Orn. I, 73; Tr. Orn. p. 28. — BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. II, 23; Isis, 1832, p. 1135; List Eur. & N. Am. B. p. 1. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 4. — JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 3; IV, 245. — BREWER (WILS.) Synop. p. 682. — IB. N. A. Oölogy. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cli; Orn. Biog. II, 339; Synop. Birds Am. p. 2. — NUTT. Man. I, 43. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, 205. — DARW. Zool. Beag. pt. iii, p. 8. — GRAY, Gen. B. fol. sp. 2; List B. Brit. Mus. p. 3; List Gen. & Subgen. Brit. Mus. p. 2. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 2, pl. v, f. 12. — GOSSE, Birds Jam. 1. — PEALE, U. S. Expl. Exp. VIII, 58. — REICHENB. Prakt. Nat. Vög. p. 26. — KERR, Transl. Gmel. II, 472. — MAX. Beit. III, 64. — RICH. (SCHOMB.) Faun. Brit. Guiana, p. 742. — CAB. (TSCHUDI) Av. Consp. Wieg. Archiv, 1844, 262; Faun. Per. Orn. p. 71. — D'ORB. Synop. Av. Mag. Zool. p. 2; Voy. Am. Merid. Ois. p. 38 (R. Sagra); Hist. Nat. Cuba Ois. p. 4. — LICHT. Verz. Doubl. p. 63. — HARTL. Syst. Ind. Azar. Pax. p. 1. — MAX. Cab. Journ. VI, 1858, 2. — GURNEY, Cat. Rapt. B. 1864, 42. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 322 (Texas). — COUES, Key, 1872,

<sup>1</sup> *Rhinogryphus burrovianus* (CASSIN). *Cathartes burrovianus*, CASS. P. A. N. S. II, 1845, 212. — IB. Birds Am. 1858, 1. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 3, No. 19. — COUES, Key, 1872, 222. *Cathartes urubitinga*, NATT. VON PELZELN, Sitz-ber. Wien. Ak. 1861, 7. — GURNEY, Cat. Rapt. B. 1864, 46. — SCL. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1867, 589 (Amazon). — PELZ. Orn. Bras. I, 1868, 1 (Brazil). — ELLIOT, Illustr. Birds N. Am. II. — GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 3, No. 20.

**SP. CHAR.** Very similar to *R. aura*, but neck feathered behind up to the occiput, and the plumage uniformly black, the feathers of the back and wings without brown borders. *Adult* (34,984, Brazil; NATTERER). Bill white; naked skin of the head and throat reddish. Wing-formula, 3, 2, 4 = 1. Wing, 18.50; tail, 9.00; culmen, .90; cere above, 1.20; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 2.25; outer, 1.35; inner, 1.10; posterior, .80. *Hab.* Eastern Tropical America. Brazil (PELZELN & NATTERER); Amazon (SCL. & SALV.); ?Jamaica (SHARPE); ? Vera Cruz, Mexico (CASSIN).

222. *Pernopteras aura*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, pt. ii, p. 7, 1826. *Vultur* *auratus*, MOLLIN. St. Chil. p. 265, 1782. — GÜLL. Syst. Nat. p. 247. — DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 29. — LACCH. Gen. Hist. I, 15. *Cathartes iola*, BRIDG. Proc. Zool. Soc. pl. ii, p. 108; Ann. Nat. Hist. XIII, 498. *Cathartes ruficollis*, SPIN, AV. BRAS. I, 2, 1824 (quote Cat. Ly. pl. vi). *Cathartes falklandicus*, SHARPE, Ann. & Mag. N. H.

SP. CHAR. Length, about 27.00–30.00; extent of wings, about 6 feet; weight, 4–5 pounds. Wing, 20.00–23.00; tail, 11.00–12.00. Culmen, about 1.00; tarsus, 2.25–2.30; middle toe, 2.50; outer, 1.55; inner, 1.25; posterior, .80. Iris umber; tarsi and toes dirty whitish, tinged with yellow or flesh-color.

*Adult*. Bill chalk-white; naked skin of the head and neck livid crimson, approaching dilute carmine on the cere, and sometimes with whitish papillæ on the crown and before the eye. General plumage black, this deepest and uniform on the lower parts; upper parts with a violet lustre, changing to greenish posteriorly, all the feathers of the dorsal region and the wing-coverts passing into brown on its borders. Primaries and tail-feathers dull black, their shafts clear pale brown. ♂ (No. 12,015, Maryland; M. F. Force). Wing, 22.00; tail, 12.00; culmen, .95; tarsus, 2.30; middle toe, 2.50; outer, 1.55; inner, 1.25; posterior, .30. ♀ (No. 49,681, Camp Grant, Arizona; Dr. E. Palmer). Wing, 20.00; tail, 11.50.

*Young*. Bill, and naked skin of the head and neck, livid blackish, the occiput and nape with more or less of whitish down. Plumage more uniformly blackish, the brownish borders above less distinct; the reflections of the plumage rather green than violaceous.

HAB. Whole of Temperate America; resident to lat. 38° north.

Localities: Guatemala (SCL. Ibis, I, 213); Cuba? (CAB. Journ. II, lxxix; GUNDLACH, resident); Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. 1859); Jamaica (GOSSE); Ecuador (SCL. Pr. Z. S. 1860, 287); Honduras (SCL. Ibis, II, 222); Trinidad (TAYLOR, Ibis, 1864, 78); S. Texas (DRESSER, Ibis, 1865, 322, breeding); Arizona (COUES, Prod. 1866, 42); Para (SCL. & SALV. 1867, 589).

After having compared numerous specimens of this species from all parts of its range, including Chile, Patagonia, Terra del Fuego, the West India Islands, and all portions of Middle America and the United States, I am unable to appreciate differences according to locality, and cannot recognize any geographical races. As a rule, the specimens from intertropical regions, as might be expected, are the smallest and most brightly colored. The smallest in the series are those from Lower California.

HABITS. Probably none of the birds of America have so extended a distribution as this Vulture, occurring, as it does, in greater or less abundance from high northern latitudes at the Saskatchewan, throughout North America from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and in all portions of South America, even to the Straits of Magellan. On the Atlantic coast it is not common north of Central New Jersey, though occasionally individuals have been seen as far north as New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Several specimens have been taken in various parts of New England, from Calais, Me., to Connecticut. Mr. Lawrence cites it as of rare and irregular occurrence near New York. In one instance he noticed a company of nine individuals at Rockaway, Long Island. West of the Alleghanies it has a much less restricted distribution, from Central America almost to the Arctic regions. It is found more or less frequently in all the Middle, the Southern, Western, and Northwestern States, without an exception. It is met with in large numbers throughout the

entire Pacific coast of North America, from Lower California to Washington Territory. Mr. Douglas saw vast numbers of this species in Canada, near Sandwich and Lake St. Clair, during their breeding-season. Dr. Richardson speaks of their having higher summer migrations in the interior of the continent than on the Pacific coast, finding it along the banks of the Saskatchewan, in latitude 55°, late in the month of June. Mr. Say met with them in latitude 59°, and Lewis and Clarke noticed them near the Falls of the Columbia River, in latitude 48°. Mr. Blakiston states that an individual was shot at the Red River Settlement as early as April 27, while the winter's snow was still covering the ground to the depth of a foot and the rivers were ice-bound. He also observed it at Fort Carlton, in latitude 53°, on the 7th of May, and again, on the 2d of September, in latitude 49°.

Mr. T. H. Jackson, of West Chester, Pa., informs me that this Vulture has



*Rhizoglyphis ana*

been known to breed at Parkersburg, fifteen miles west of the former place, in the summer of 1870, and that they also breed rather plentifully on the banks of the Susquehanna, laying their eggs, two in number, in caves among the rocks, as early as the 10th of April, and that some remain in that vicinity all winter.

Dr. Cooper mentions their great abundance during the summer in all parts of Washington Territory, frequenting the vicinity of prairies and river-banks, but never appearing along the coast. They arrive at Puget Sound about the middle of May, and undoubtedly breed in the Territory. Dr. Suckley

met with them at Fort Dalles, in Oregon, and also on Puget Sound. He also met with them not far from Pembina. Dr. Newberry also observed them in California and Oregon, quite common in the vicinity of the towns and about the great rivers. In the Klamath Basin it was more rare, and on the Des Chutes he scarcely saw any; but on the Columbia, especially below the Cascades, they were very plentiful.

Dr. Heermann found this bird ranging over the whole extent of California, meeting them in great numbers in the vicinity of Fort Yuma, at the junction of the Colorado and Gila Rivers.

In the West India Islands these birds occur in Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad; but according to Mr. E. C. Taylor, neither this nor any other species of Vulture occurs in any of the islands between Trinidad and St. Thomas, not even in Tobago or Porto Rico. At Trinidad they are very abundant.

Mr. G. C. Taylor found this Vulture common in Honduras, where, however, it does not go much into the towns and villages, but is usually seen on the outskirts and in the forests. In Guatemala, Mr. Salvin found it not nearly so abundant as *C. atratus*, and there also, as in Honduras, it frequented the more uncultivated and forest districts, leaving to the latter all the duties of the scavenger. Captain C. C. Abbott found this Vulture very common in the Falkland Islands, remaining the whole year round, and breeding.

The flight of the Turkey-Buzzard is graceful, dignified, and easy. It sails with a steady, even motion, with wings just above the horizontal position, with their tips slightly raised. They rise from the ground with a single bound, give a few flaps to their wings, and then proceed with their peculiar, soaring flight. They rise very high in the air, moving round in large circles. They are of gregarious habits, and usually associate in companies of from ten to a much larger number. They feed upon all kinds of animal food, and are accused by Audubon of sucking eggs and devouring the young of Herons and other birds. Yet in Trinidad they were observed by Mr. E. C. Taylor associating with the poultry apparently upon the most amicable terms, and, although surrounded with chickens of all sizes, they were never known to molest them. Mr. Audubon also states that they devour birds of their own species when dead. They are said to walk well on the ground and on the roofs of houses, and associate and even roost in company with the Black Vulture. Dr. Heermann, who observed them on the desert between the Colorado and Carissa Creek, where they find an ample supply of food from numerous animals that there perish from want of grass and water, states that they seemed to be on terms of amity both with the Ravens and the California Vultures, but retire on the approach of the prairie wolf. He adds that when a company of these Vultures have once commenced upon a carcass, a scene of plunder, noise, confusion, and dispute ensues, battling all description. Each one strives, as best he may, to bolt the morsel he has seized, or to rob his neighbor whose booty is too voluminous to be despatched at once. As



illustrating the peculiar flight of this species, Dr. Newberry mentions that, having occasion to shoot one for the purpose of determining its identity, the wounded bird made no motion indicating it had been struck by the shot, but sailed on with widely expanded and motionless wings as before; gradually it "began to descend in wide and regular circles, till finally, without a wing-flap, it settled as lightly as a feather on the prairie, and remained motionless." Upon going to the bird, Dr. Newberry found it resting in the grass, the wings still widely and evenly expanded, but the head drooping and life extinct.

In the Southern States this Vulture is found equally in cities and large villages, and near the coast, as well as in the interior, in company with the Black Vulture (*C. atratus*), although the latter species is chiefly confined to the coast, and is rare in the interior. It is noticeable that in Guatemala and Honduras its habits are somewhat different in these respects, being only found in wild places, leaving the cities and sea-coast to the exclusive occupancy of the Black Vulture. Mr. G. C. Taylor, who observed these birds in Kingston, Jamaica, states that they were the only species seen, and that they were always to be found either on the roofs of the houses or feeding on the carrion in the streets. They made great noise with their feet as they clattered over the shingles of the roofs.

In Trinidad, where Mr. E. C. Taylor found this bird much less numerous than the *atratus*, it kept to the open country, and was not found in the towns. He could always readily distinguish it by its more graceful flight and its aquiline appearance. They were generally to be seen skimming over the tree-tops, as if trying how near they could go without touching. On the Orinoco, though more numerous than in Trinidad, they did not frequent the towns in the same familiar manner with the Black Vulture.

The Turkey-Buzzards, as well as the Black Vultures, are evidently aided by a very powerful sight in distinguishing their food at a great distance. They are frequently known to collect in large numbers, from great distances, around the dead bodies of animals, where none were in sight before. But it seems equally certain that they are also assisted by an only less powerful sense of smell. Mr. Hill, cited by Mr. Gosse, mentions a remarkable instance where these Vultures were attracted by a strong smell of carrion to the house of a German emigrant, lying sick of a fever, and where his neglected food had become offensive. In this instance the sense of smell, unaided by that of sight, must have guided these birds.

Mr. G. C. Taylor, while residing at Kingston, often used to puzzle the Vultures by throwing dried bird-skins stuffed with cotton out upon an adjacent roof. Few seconds would elapse before a Vulture would pounce upon them, and manifest a great disappointment in finding nothing to eat in skins of so promising an appearance. He once wrapped the carcass of a bird in a piece of paper, and threw it into the top of a thickly leaved tree near his window. There it remained for a long while, the Vultures sweeping

within a few feet of it, almost brushing the leaves with their wings, their sense of smell informing them that there was something eatable close by, but their sight failing to solve the problem, owing to the enclosure of the object in an envelope.

The Turkey-Buzzard breeds on or near the ground, usually in hollow trees, stumps, or decaying logs. It generally constructs no nest, depositing the eggs with little or no preparatory pains for their shelter. Mr. Ord found them breeding as early as the month of May in the deep recesses of the solitary swamps of New Jersey. He describes the nest as formed, without any painstaking, in a truncated hollow tree, and in excavated stumps or logs, and mentions the number of eggs as from two to four. Except in regard to the number of eggs, which is probably never more than two, these observations substantially correspond with other accounts of their breeding. In Jamaica, Mr. Gosse mentions that the situations usually selected by the Turkey-Buzzard of that island for laying and hatching its eggs are hollows and ledges of rocks in secluded places or inaccessible crags and cliffs. A little dry trash, he adds, or decaying leaves, are all the apology for a nest. On the island of Galveston, where this Vulture was plentiful, Mr. Audubon several times found its nest on a level part of the salt marshes, either under the widespread branches of cactuses, or among tall grass growing beneath low bushes. Mr. T. H. Jackson found this Vulture nesting in Maryland, with fresh eggs, from April 10 to May 1.

Dr. C. Kollock, of Cheraw, S. C., informs me that in his neighborhood both this species and the Black Vulture frequent places in the interior of swamps and thick woods, generally called Buzzards' roosts. They congregate there through the year in large numbers, and usually breed in the immediate vicinity. Mr. Audubon visited one of these roosts, near Charleston, S. C., which extended over two acres of ground, and was entirely destitute of vegetation.

Mr. Dresser, who found this species one of the most common birds of Southern Texas, gives a somewhat different account of their nesting. He found them breeding all through the country on the banks of streams where the timber afforded a secure shelter. He saw many nests on the banks of the Medina, Altacosta, and San Antonio Rivers; and these, he states, were large and bulky, composed of sticks, and generally placed at some height on a cypress or an oak near the river-bank.

Captain C. C. Abbott states (*Ibis*, 1861, p. 149) that in the Falkland Islands they lay their eggs, two in number, but sometimes three, under a high bank amongst bushes, or on the top of a dead balsam log, without constructing any nest. The time of their laying was the first week of November. The young birds have the bare space of the head and neck of a bluish color, as also the feet. The old birds go in pairs the whole year.

The eggs exhibit slight deviations in size, and occasionally the nature of their markings, yet for the most part preserve specific characteristics.

The following are the proportions of four specimens, which will represent their usual variations: 2.81 inches by 1.94; 2.75 by 1.87; 2.94 by 1.87; 2.62 by 1.94. These were from New Jersey, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Tamatlipas, Mexico. The more common varieties have a ground of a light cream-color, marked with large confluent spots of reddish-brown or chocolate, chiefly predominating at the larger end, but also sparsely scattered over the entire egg. Intermixed with these are less frequent markings of a light purplish or lilac shade of drab. These are often so faint as only to be perceptible on a close examination. An egg taken some years since in New Jersey, by Alexander Wilson, and somewhat faded, is marked over the entire shell with confluent spots of a dark greenish-brown, with no perceptible shades of red or purple. Another variety from Cheraw, S. C., has a ground of nearly pure white, is very nearly unspotted, and is only marked with a few small dots and lines of red and indistinct purple at the larger end.

GENUS **CATHARISTA**, VIEILLOT.

*Catharista*, VIEILL. 1816. (Type, *Falco atratus*, BARTRAM.)

*Cathartus*, L. GEOFFROY, 1854.

*Cathartes*, AUD. in part.

GEN. CHAR. Size of *Rhinogryphus*, but more robust, with shorter wings, and very different flight. Wings with the remiges abbreviated, the primaries scarcely reaching to the middle of the tail. Tail even, or faintly emarginated. Head and upper portion of the neck naked, the feathers extending farther up behind than in front; naked skin of the side of the neck transversely corrugated; no bristles before the eye. Nostril narrow, occupying only about the posterior half of the nasal orifice, its anterior end contracted and acute. Cere not contracted anteriorly, but the upper and lower outline parallel; much depressed, or broader than deep. Plumage beginning gradually on the neck with normal, or broad and rounded, feathers. Fourth or fifth quill longest; outer five with inner webs sinuated. Tarsus longer than middle toe.



*Catharista atrata*.  $\frac{1}{4}$  nat. size.

This well-marked genus is composed of a single species, which is confined to the tropical and warm temperate portions of America. The difference from the other Vultures which this bird exhibits in its habits, and especially in its flight, is very striking, and furnishes additional characters distinctive of the genus.

**Catharista atrata (BARTRAM).****CARRION CROW; BLACK VULTURE.**

*Vultur atratus*, BARTRAM, Terr. Carol. 285, 1792. — MEYER, Zool. Ann. I, 290. — ORD (WILS.) Am. Orn. pl. lxxv, f. 2. — AUD. Birds Am. pl. cxi. — BIRLW. Ed. Journ. Sc. Ser. 1, VI, 156. *Cathartes atratus*, LESS. Man. Orn. I, 73, 1828. — RICH. & SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 6, 1831. — DARW. Journ. Res. p. 68; Zool. Beag. pt. iii, p. 7. — SWAINS. Classif. B. II, 206. — JAMES. (WILS.) Am. Orn. I, 10. — BREWER (WILS.) Am. Orn. Synop. Birds Am. p. 682. — IB. N. A. Oology. — AUD. Synop. Birds Am. p. 3. — BRIDG. Proc. Zool. Soc. pt. xi, p. 108; Am. Nat. Hist. XIII, 498. — BONAP. Consp. p. 9. — DE KAY, Zool. N. Y. II, 3. — REICH. Prakt. Nat. Vög. p. 27. — CASS. Bird N. Am. 1858, 5. — COUES, Key, 1872, 222. *Catharista atratus*, GRAY, Hand List, I, 1869, 3, No. 16. *Vultur aura niger* β, KERR, Transl. Gmel. 473, 1792. *Vultur aura* (not of Linn !), DAUD. Tr. Orn. II, 19 (quotes Pl. Enl. 187, 1800). *Vultur urubu*, VIEILL. Ois. Am. Sept. pl. ii, 1807. — LATH. Gen. Hist. I, 14. *Cathartes urubu*, LESS. Tr. Orn. p. 27, 1831. — D'ORB. Voy. Am. Mérid. Ois. p. 31, pl. i. *Percnopterus urubu*, STEPH. Zool. XIII, 7, pl. xxxi, 1826. *Vultur iota*, JARD. (WILS.) Am. Orn. III, 226, 1832. — ORD (WILS.) Am. Orn. (ed. 2). *Neophron iota*, CUV. Règ. An. (ed. 2), I, 317, 1829. *Cathartes iota*, BONAP. Ann. Lyc. N. B. p. 23; Isis, 1832, p. 1135; List, p. 1. — KING, Voy. Beag. I, 532. — NUTT. MAN. I, 46. — PEALE, U. S. Expl. Exp. VIII, 59. *Cathartes fœtens*, ILLIG. Mus. Berol. — LICHT. Verz. Doubl. p. 63, 1823. — GRAY, Gen. B. sp. 1, pl. i, f. 3. — MAX. Beitr. III, 58. — RICH. SCHOMB. Faun. Brit. Guian. p. 742. — CAB. Av. Consp. Wieg. Archiv, 1844, 262; Faun. Per. Orn. p. 71. — HARTL. Syst. Ind. Azar. p. 1.

**SP. CHAR.** Form heavy; the wings and tail short, the latter square; the remiges and rectrices very hard and stiff. Bill strong, the mandibles broader than deep, and of about equal depth, the terminal hook well developed; upper and lower outlines of the cere parallel, and nearly straight. Nostril narrow, its anterior end contracted and pointed. Wing, 17.00 – 17.50; tail, 7.50 – 8.50; culmen, .90 – .95; tarsus, 3.00; middle toe, 2.90; outer, 1.90; inner, 1.50; posterior, .75.

**Adult.** Bill blackish, the point horny white; naked skin of the head and upper part of the neck blackish. Entire plumage continuous, perfectly uniform dull black; primaries becoming grayish basally (more hoary whitish on their under surface), their shafts pure white for their whole length.

♂ (1933, St. Simon's Island, Georgia; Dr. Wilson). Wing, 17.50; tail, 8.25.

**HAB.** Tropical and warmer portions of America, especially near the sea-coast.

**HABITS.** The Black Vulture or Carrion Crow of the Southern States, though found in a much less extended area than the Turkey Vulture, has yet a very wide distribution. It is quite common along our Atlantic and Gulf coasts from North Carolina to Mexico. It does not occur on the Pacific coast of the United States, though given by Douglas as being abundant on the Columbia River; indeed, it has not, that I am aware of, been detected west of the Rocky Mountains. It is, however, as Dr. Gambel states, very common about the Gulf of California, and at Mazatlan, particularly, he saw it around the town in large companies. On the Atlantic coast it is not often met with farther north than Wilmington, N. C. I could not detect it near Norfolk, Va., nor could I ascertain that it was known ever to occur there. Accidental specimens have been taken, two on the coast of Massa-



chusetts and one in the Bay of Fundy ; but such occurrences are very rare. Along the coast of all the Southern States, from North Carolina to Texas, it is much more abundant than its kindred species, even where, in the interior of the same State, it is far less frequent. Along the banks of the Mississippi and its tributaries, as far as Ohio to the east and Illinois to the north, it is found more or less abundantly at certain seasons. It is met with in several of the West India Islands, though rare in Jamaica. It is abundant throughout Central America, and occurs in nearly all parts of South America. Specimens were brought from Chile by Lieutenant Gilliss, obtained near Santiago, where it was not common, and only found in the mountainous regions of the interior. Darwin fixes its extreme southern limit in latitude  $41^{\circ}$  south, near the Rio Negro, and he did not meet with any in Chile or Patagonia.

Mr. E. C. Taylor, in his paper on the Birds of the West Indies, mentions



*Catharista atrata*

the great abundance of Black Vultures at Port of Spain, in Trinidad. They swarmed over the town, covered the roofs of the houses, and lived on the best terms with the poultry. So tame and familiar were they that he often poked them with his stick or umbrella as he walked through the streets. At night they roosted in the trees in the gardens and squares of the town. They were very abundant all over Trinidad and in the parts of Venezuela he visited, but he found none in any of the islands from Trinidad to St. Thomas. This species was not found in Jamaica by Mr. Gosse, but Mr. March afterwards reported it as a "recent settler."

Mr. G. C. Taylor (*Ibis*, 1860, p. 22) found the Black Vulture very abundant in Honduras, where it is always to be seen in the villages, sitting on the roofs of the houses, wheeling in flocks high in the air, or feeding on the offal in the streets. They were very tame and very nu-

merous, forty or fifty being frequently seen in a single company. They abounded in all parts of Central America that he visited.

With the exception of *Quiscalus macrurus*, Mr. Salvin regards this species as the most familiar bird in Guatemala. At night they retired to the forests, and in the early morning trooped back to their posts in the streets and lanes, and about the tops of the houses and churches. They generally nested in the forests, though in Antigua Guatemala they were said to use the ruins of the old churches for that purpose.

Mr. Dresser found this Vulture about equally common with the *B. aura* on the Lower Rio Grande, but much less common near San Antonio. He usually found the two species in company, attended also by the *Polyborus auduboni* and *Craxirex harrisi*. They were found breeding among the rocks at Systerdale, where they were said to be the only species found.

Dr. Coues did not meet with any in Arizona, nor were any taken on the survey of the Mexican boundary. In South Carolina he considered it chiefly confined to the lower country, while the *C. aura* is more generally distributed over the State. The two meet together freely, and as they circle about in each other's company they afford an excellent opportunity of noticing the great differences in their mode of flight and in the outline of their bodies and wings. On the other hand, Wilson, Ord, and others deny that the two kinds live together.

In the Southern Atlantic cities, especially Charleston and Savannah, the Black Vulture is a semi-domestic bird, and is very abundant. It is also to be found in the interior, but is neither so common nor so tame.

The *Catharista atratus* is said to be much more sensitive to cold than the *aura*, and when the weather is at all unfavorable they cower around the tops of chimneys to enjoy the heat. Though tolerated and even protected by law, their filthy habits render them a source of annoyance to those whose houses they frequent. Their value as scavengers and the services they render in the removal of offal render them almost a necessity in Southern cities.

Both in their mode of flight and in their movements upon the ground this species differs materially from the Turkey-Buzzard. The latter walks steadily while on the ground, and when it mounts does so by a single upward spring. The Black Vulture is ill at ease on the ground, moves awkwardly, and when it essays to fly upward takes several leaps in a shuffling sidelong manner before it can rise. Their flight is more labored, and is continued by flapping several times, alternating with sailing a limited distance. Their wings are held at right angles, and their feet protrude beyond their tail-feathers. In all these respects the differences between the two birds are very noticeable, and plainly mark the species.

Mr. Audubon states that at the commencement of the mating-season, early in February, the gesticulations of the males are very conspicuous. They strut in the manner of a Turkey-cock, open their wings, lower their heads, and utter a pulling sound that is anything but musical.

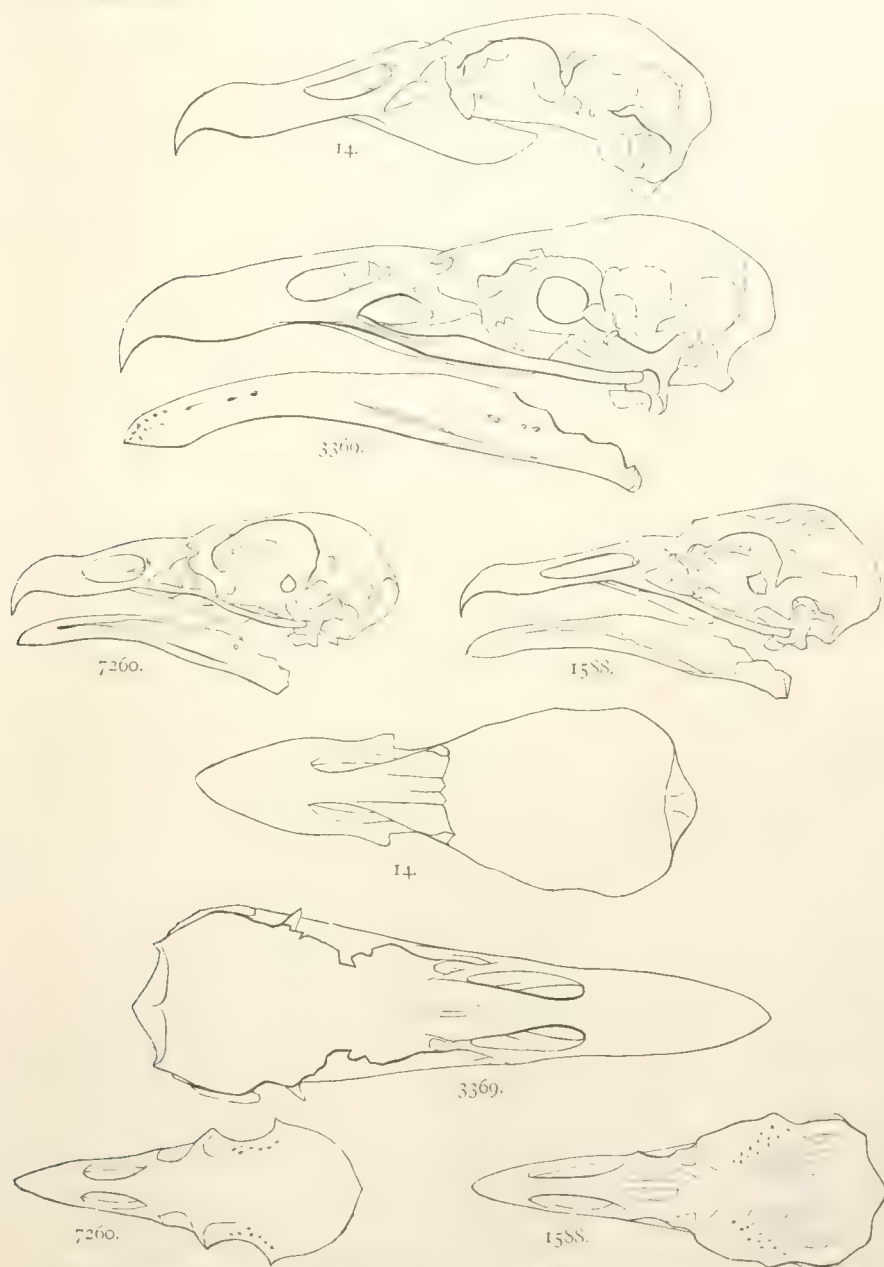
Alexander Wilson describes with great minuteness a scene he witnessed near Charleston, where the carcass of a horse was devoured by these birds, the ground for hundreds of yards around being black with them. He counted at one time two hundred and thirty-seven, while others were in the air flying around. He ventured within a few yards of the horse without their heeding his presence. They frequently attacked one another, fighting with their claws and striking with their open wings, fixing their claws in each other's head. They made a hissing sound with open mouths, resembling that produced by thrusting a red-hot poker into water, and occasionally a snuffling noise, as if clearing their nostrils. At times one would emerge with a large fragment, and in a moment would be surrounded by several others, who would tear it in pieces and soon cause it to disappear.

The Black Vulture breeds on or near the ground in the same manner as the Turkey-Buzzard, in hollow logs, decayed trunks of trees, and stumps, and also without this protection, the bare earth only being made use of. It is said to make no nest. The eggs seldom, if ever, exceed two in number. These are greater, both in their length and capacity, than those of the Turkey-Buzzard, although the measurements of the birds themselves would seem to show the latter to be apparently the larger bird. The average weight of the Black Vulture's egg, however, is about one pound, or fifteen per cent greater than that of the Buzzard. Three from Charleston, Galveston, and the Rio Grande furnish the following measurements: 3.81 inches by 1.94; 3 by 2.06; 3.06 by 1.94. The principal difference between the eggs of this and the preceding species is in regard to their size. Their ground-color is the same, or nearly the same,—a yellowish-white or cream-color, almost never a pure white, and only in exceptional cases. The eggs are more elongate in their shape, and the blotches are usually larger. These are of a dark reddish-brown, confluent, and chiefly distributed around the larger end. There are also markings, smaller and less frequent, of lilac and purplish-drab, similar to those noticed in the eggs of *C. aura*. An egg from the Rio Grande is marked with small spots of reddish-brown and obscure lilac, equally distributed over the whole surface on a ground of cream-color.

Mr. Audubon is positive that this Vulture never breeds in trees, and that they never build any nest, but deposit their eggs on the ground, on a dead log, or in a hollow tree. Twenty-one days are required for hatching their eggs, on which the male and female sit by turns and feed each other. The young are covered with a light cream-colored down, and are fed with regurgitated food, in the manner of Pigeons. As soon as they are able, they follow their parents through the woods, at which period their entire head and neck, which afterwards become bare, are covered with feathers.

## NOTE.

THE following figures are given to illustrate some of the cranial and sternal peculiarities of the *Cathartidæ*.



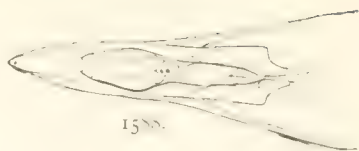
14. *Sarorhampus gryllus*. One half natural size.  
3369. *Pseudogryphus canorianus*. " "

7260. *Leucorhampus gryllus*. One half natural size.  
1588. *Catharista atrata*. " "

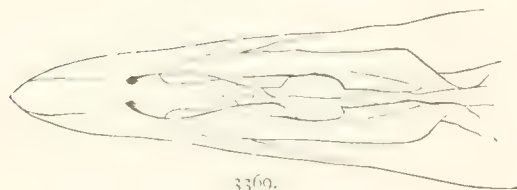




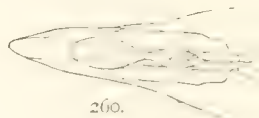
14.



1588.



3369.



260.



14



3369.



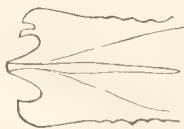
1588.



260.



6373.



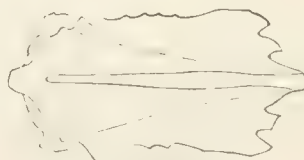
9007.



3369.



9007.



3369.

14.	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Small and pale bird.	One of the most common.
1588.	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	" "	" "
260.	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	" "	" "
3369.	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	" "	" "
6373.	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	" "	" "
9007.	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	" "	" "

## FAMILY COLUMBIDÆ. THE PIGEONS.

CHAR. The basal portion of the bill covered by a soft skin, in which are situated the nostrils, overlain by an incipient fleshy valve; the apical portion hard and convex. The hind toe on the same level with the rest; the anterior toes without membrane at the base. Tarsi more or less naked; covered laterally and behind with hexagonal scales.

The bill of the *Columbida* is always shorter than the head, thinnest in the middle; the basal half covered by a soft skin; the apical portion of both jaws hard; the upper one very convex, blunt, and broad at the tip, where it is also somewhat decurved. There is a long nasal groove, the posterior portion occupied by a cartilaginous scale, covered by a soft cere-like skin. The nostrils constitute an elongated slit in the lower border of the scale. The culmen is always depressed and convex. The bill is never notched in the true Doves, though *Didunculus* shows well-defined serrations. The tongue is small, soft, and somewhat fleshy.

The wing has ten primaries, and eleven or twelve, rarely fifteen, secondaries; the latter broad, truncate, and of nearly equal length. The tail is rounded or cuneate, never forked.

The tarsus is usually short, rarely longer than the middle toe, scutellate anteriorly, and with hexagonal plates laterally and behind; sometimes naked. An inter-digital membrane is either wanting entirely, or else is very slightly indicated between the middle and outer toes.

The valuable monograph of Bonaparte in the second part of *Conspectus Avium* renders the task of arranging the American *Columbidæ* in proper sequence and of determining their synonymy comparatively easy. He divides the family into *Lopholæminæ*, *Columbinæ*, *Turturinaæ*, *Zenaidinæ*, and *Phapinæ*, the second and fourth alone occurring in North America. They may be briefly distinguished as follows:—

**Columbinæ.** Tarsus shorter than the lateral toe; feathered above.

**Zenaidinæ.** Tarsus longer than the lateral toes; entirely bare of feathers.

## SUBFAMILY COLUMBINÆ.

CHAR. Tarsi stout, short, with transverse scutellæ anteriorly; feathered for the basal third above, but not at all behind. Toes lengthened, the lateral decidedly longer than the tarsus. Wings lengthened and pointed. Size large. Tail-feathers twelve.

This section of doves embraces the largest North American species, and among them the more arboreal ones. The genera are as follows:—

**Columba.** Head large; tail short, broad, and rounded.

Outer toe much longer than the inner; bill rather short, stout. *Columba*.

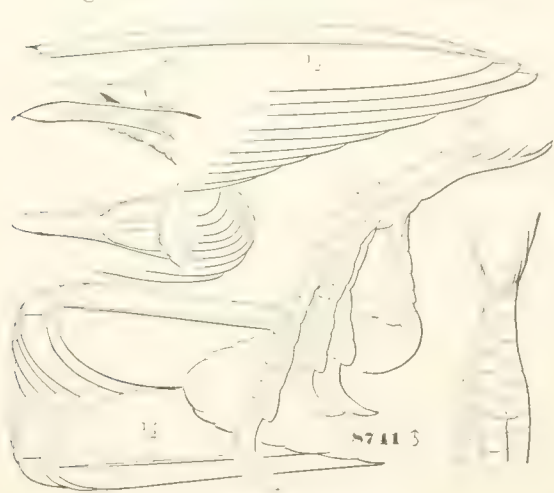
Outer toe scarcely longer than the inner; bill lengthened, compressed. *Patagians*.

**Ectopistes.** Head very small; tail much lengthened, cuneate.

GENUS **COLUMBA**, LINNÆUS.*Columba*, LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat. 1759. (Type, *Columba livia*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill stout and rather short; culmen from the base of the feathers about two fifths the head. Lateral toes and claws about equal, reaching nearly to the base of the middle claw; the claws rather long, and not much curved. Tail rather short, rounded, or nearly even; as long as from the carpal joint to the end of secondaries in the closed wing. Second and third quills longest.

The genus *Columba*, as characterized above, includes the *C. livia*, or domestic

*Columba fasciata*.

Pigeon, the differences between it and the American forms being very slight. Reichenbach and Bonaparte separate the North American birds from *Columba*, under the name of *Chlorænas*, while *C. leucocephala* and a near ally of the West Indies (*C. corensis*) have been placed in the subgenus *Patagiænas*, Reichenbach.

The variations of form among the numerous American members of

*Columba* are more with the species, however, than with groups, and withal are so exceedingly slight that an attempt at subdividing the genus is scarcely justifiable. They may be arranged by the style of coloration as follows. None of the American species have the forepart of the neck metallic, as in the European species, or *Columba* proper, as restricted, and in which these metallic feathers have the fibres loose and blended, instead of being compact; the feathers also have a well-defined squamate arrangement in nearly or quite all the American *Columbæ*.

**Species and Varieties.**

**A.** Tail with a broad terminal band abruptly lighter in color than the basal portion, and with a more or less well-defined blackish band across the middle. Nape with metallic reflections.

*a.* A narrow nuchal band of white; the metallic feathers beneath this, with their outlines distinct, producing a squamate appearance.

1. ***C. fasciata*.** Blackish band across the middle of the tail narrow, and badly defined, and concealed by the coverts; terminal portion of the tail much lighter than the basal part. Bill yellow; crissum whitish;

hood and anterior lower parts ashy-vinaceous-purple; dorsal region ashy.

Bill tipped with black; wing-coverts conspicuously edged with white; back with an olivaceous cast. Wing, 8.80; tail, 6.10; culmen, .75; tarsus, 1.13; middle toe, 1.37; outer, 1.05; inner, .94. *Hab.* Pacific Province of the United States, south to Guatemala.

var. *fasciata*.

Bill entirely yellow; wing-coverts not distinctly edged with white; back with a bluish cast. Wing, 8.30; tail, 6.20; culmen, .80; tarsus, 1.04; middle toe, 1.27; outer, 1.00; inner, .88. *Hab.*

Costa Rica. var. *albilinea*.<sup>1</sup>

2. *C. araucana*.<sup>2</sup> Black band across the middle of the tail as broad as the terminal lighter one, and wholly exposed; terminal portion not lighter than the base. Bill black; crissum deep slate; hood and lower parts deep purplish-vinaceous; dorsal region like the breast. Wing, 8.35; tail, 6.20; culmen, .58; tarsus, 1.13; middle toe, 1.26; outer, .90; inner, .77. *Hab.* Chile.

♂. No nuchal bar of white; metallic feathers of the nape with their fibres blended, producing a soft even surface.

3. *C. caribæa*.<sup>3</sup> Tail much as in *C. fasciata*, but with a much greater contrast between the nearly equal dark basal and light terminal portions; the former more uniformly dusky, not showing any distinct darker intermediate band. Bill black; hood and lower parts light ashy-pinkish vinaceous; crissum white; dorsal region ashy. Wing, 8.70; tail, 6.90; culmen, .81; tarsus, 1.05; middle toe, 1.28; outer, .90; inner, .88. *Hab.* Jamaica.

4. *C. rufina*.<sup>4</sup> Terminal light band of the tail narrow, badly defined. Bill black. Forehead, dorsal region, lesser wing-coverts, neck and breast, deep chocolate-purple; forepart of the back with a violet reflection. Other portions mainly ashy. Wing, 7.50; tail, 5.00; culmen, .68; tarsus, .97; middle toe, 1.13; outer, .89; inner, .78. *Hab.* Brazil, north to Guatemala.

**B.** Tail of a uniform shade throughout.

α. A metallic "cape" on the nape, each feather bordered with black, producing a conspicuously squamate appearance; above this, a broad, transverse, crescentic patch of dark maroon color. No vinaceous tints on the body.

5. *C. leucocephala*. Hood white; metallic cape brassy-green; throat, cheeks, etc., dark plumbeous-slate, like the rest of the plumage. Bill yellow only at the tip. Wing, 7.70; tail, 5.50; culmen, .66; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, 1.25; outer, .85; inner, .83. *Hab.* Cuba, and south Florida.

<sup>1</sup> *Columba fasciata*, var. *albilinea*. *Columba albilinea*, "GRAY," BONAP. CONSP. VI, 1857, 51. *Chlorænas a.* CAB. J. 1869, 211.

<sup>2</sup> *Columba araucana*, LESS. Voy. de la Coq. Ois. t. 40. *Columba denisca*, TEMM. Pl. Col. 502. *C. meridionalis*, KING.

<sup>3</sup> *Columba caribæa*, GÜLLIN, S. N. 1788, 773. — GOSSE, B. JAM. 291. — MARCH, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1863, 301. *Patagiænas c.* SCL. P. Z. S. 1861, 80. — REICH. Handb. 65, tab. 230, b, f. 3362.

<sup>4</sup> *Columba rufina*, (TEMME) REICH. Handb. 62, tab. 222, f. 2583, 2584. — LAWE. ANN. N. Y. Lyc. 1861, VII, 333, No. 281 (Panama). — SCL. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1866, 198 (Amazon). — IB. 1867, 590. — SCL. Ibis, I, 222 (Guatemala). — SALV. P. Z. S. 1867, 159 (Veragua). — IB. 1870, 115 (Costa Rica). — REINH. Vid. Med. Nat. For. 1870, 59 (Brazil).



6. *C. corensis*.<sup>1</sup> Head with greater portions of head and neck, purplish-vinaceous; metallic cape vinaceous-purple. Bill wholly yellow. Wing, 8.00; tail, 5.70; culmen, .63; tarsus, 1.05; middle toe, 1.25; outer, .86; inner, .83. *Hab.* Porto Rico; St. Thomas; Santo Domingo; Santa Cruz.

b. No metallic reflections on the nape.

Head and neck, all round, lower parts to the anal region, and a patch on the lesser wing-coverts, reddish chocolate-purple. Rest of plumage slaty-blue, darker on tail and primaries, and more olivaceous on the dorsal region.

7. *C. flavirostris*. Feathers of the forehead reaching forward to the anterior end of the nasal lobe, and wholly covering the cere on top. Culmen much arched. Bill and claws yellow. Wing, 7.80; tail, 5.40; culmen, .52; tarsus, 1.03; middle toe, 1.15; outer, .82; inner, .75. *Hab.* Middle America, and southern borders of Middle Province of United States, from Arizona and the Rio Grande; south to Costa Rica.

8. *C. inornata*.<sup>2</sup> Feathers of the forehead reaching forward to only about the middle of the nasal lobe, leaving the top of the cere naked; culmen only moderately arched. Bill and claws black. Wing, 9.20; tail, 6.60; culmen, .75; tarsus, 1.16; middle toe, 1.47; outer, 1.18; inner, .97. *Hab.* Jamaica.

## Columba fasciata, SAY.

### BAND-TAILED PIGEON.

*Columba fasciata*, SAY, Long's Exped. R. Mts. II, 1823, 10. — BON. Amer. Orn. I, 1825, 77, pl. viii. — WAGLER, Syst. Av. 1827, *Columba*, No. 47. — NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 624. — AUD. Orn. Biog. IV, 1838, 479, pl. cclxviii. — LE. SYN. 1859, 191. — LE. Birds Amer. IV, 1842, 312, pl. cclxxix. — TSCHUDI, Fauna Peruana, 1844-46, No. 261. — NEWBERY, Zool. Cal. & Ore. Route, Rep. P. R. R. VI, IV, 92. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 597. — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 506. — *Chloranas fasciata*, BONAP. Consp. II, 1854, 51. — *Columba monilis*, VIGORS, Zool. Beechey's Voyage, 1839, 26, pl. x. — *Chloranas monilis*, REICH. Icones Av. cccxxvii, fig. 2481.

SP. CHAR. Above ash, inclining to olivaceous on the back, and with a fine bluish cast on the rump, under surface of wings, and sides. The primaries and basal portion of the tail dusky. Larger wing-coverts and secondaries, with primaries, distinctly edged with white; terminal third of tail of nearly the same tint as the wing-coverts, but the basal portion much darker, with a rather indistinct, narrow dusky band between the two shades, a little beyond the tips of the upper coverts. Whole head, lateral and front part of neck, and lower parts to the anal region, ashy vinaceous-purple, lighter, and more pinkish on the abdomen; chin considerably lighter; anal region and crissum white. A narrow half-collar of white across the upper portion of the nape; feathers beneath this dull

<sup>1</sup> *Columba corensis*, GMEL. S. N. I, 1878, 783. — SALLÉ, P. Z. S. 1857, 235 (Santo Domingo). — NEWTON, Ibis I, 252 (Santa Cruz). — CAB. J. IV, 108 (Cuba). — TAYLOR, Ibis, 1864, 171 (St. Thomas). — *Patagianus c.* REICHENB. Handb. tab. 222, f. 2581.

<sup>2</sup> *Columba inornata*, VIGORS, Pl. Zool. Soc. 1847, 37. — DELTA SAGRA, Voy. Ile de Cuba, Ois. t. 28. — CAB. J. IV, 106 (Cuba). — SCL. P. Z. S. 1861, 80. — REICHENB. Handb. 62, tab. 222, f. 2582. — GUNDL. Repert. Cub. I, 1866, 298. — MARCH, P. A. N. S. 1863, 301 (Jamaica). — *C. rufina*, GOSSE, B. Jam. (not *C. rufina* of TEMMINCK !).

metallic golden-green, with an occasional bronzy reflection, the feathers somewhat squamæ. Bill and feet yellow, the former black at the end; iris red. Length, about 15.00; wing, 8.80; tail, 6.10. *Female* smaller, and less deeply colored, the purplish tint more ashy; sometimes with the nuchal white band obsolete or wanting; the abdomen whitish, etc.

HAB. Pacific Province of United States, and table-lands of Mexico, to Guatemala. Oaxaca (SCL. 1858, 304); Xalapa, 1859, 369 (CORDOVA, 1856, 359); Guatemala (SALVIN, *Ibis*, II, 276); Fort Whipple, Arizona (COTES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 93); Vera Cruz, alpine region (SUM. M. Bost. Soc. I, 562).



*Columba fasciata*

Specimens — even those from the same locality — vary a great deal in size, particularly as to the bill, and there is also considerable variation in the shade and depth as well as the extent of the purplish tint: this varies from a purplish-chocolate tint to nearly violaceous, and sometimes tinges the ends of the lower tail-coverts; sometimes the back has faint bronzy reflections. Guatemalan skins have the white edgings to the wing-coverts less conspicuous than in northern ones, showing an approximation to the features of var. *albilinea* of Costa Rica; they also have a shorter bill than California specimens. Oregon birds, on the other hand, have longer bills than the California, and are considerably darker in color.

HABITS. The Band-tailed Pigeon was first met with in Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains, and described by Say in 1823. It is found from the northern Rocky Mountains westward to the Pacific, and from Central America northward along the whole of the Pacific Coast as far to the north as Washington Territory, and probably portions of British Columbia.

Mr. Townsend, quoted by Audubon, noticed this Pigeon from the eastern spurs of the Rocky Mountains across to the Columbia River, where it was very abundant. He noticed their arrival in very great numbers on the 17th of April, and they continued in large flocks even while breeding. Their breeding-places were on the banks of the river, the eggs were placed on the ground, under small bushes without any nest, where numbers congregated together. The eggs were two in number, and are described as of a yellowish-white color, some inclining to a bluish-white with minute white dots at the larger end.

These birds feed on the berries of the black-elder and the buds of the balsam poplar. When sitting on the trees, they huddle close together in the manner of the Carolina Parrot, and many may be killed at a single discharge. Their flesh is said to be tender, juicy, and fine eating.

Mr. Nuttall states that this Pigeon is always in flocks, and in Oregon keeps only in the thick forests of the Columbia and the Wahlamet, and during the summer is more particularly abundant in the alluvial groves of the latter river, where he constantly heard its cooing, and saw it in large flocks, feeding on the berries of the elder, the *Cornus nuttalli*, and the seed-germs and young pods of the balsam poplar. Its call is somewhat similar to that of the Carolina Dove, but is readily distinguishable, is uttered at the usual intervals, and is repeated an hour or two at a time, chiefly in the morning and evening. It remains on the lower part of the Columbia nearly the whole year, feeding on the berries of the tree cornel, moving south only in the severity of winter.

Mr. Salvin found this Pigeon at Volcan de Fuego, in Guatemala, at an elevation of six thousand feet, and at Coban. It was quite common in the high forests of the Volcano.

Dr. Woodhouse met with small flocks of these Pigeons in different parts of New Mexico, and especially in the San Francisco Mountains, now included within the limits of Arizona.

This species was found at Los Nogales, in Mexico, July, 1855, by Dr. Kennerly, and at New Leon by Lieutenant Couch. Dr. Kennerly states that these beautiful birds were often observed in the valleys of the Santa Cruz and Los Nogales Rivers, as well as among the oaks on the adjacent hills. In the month of June they were found in small flocks of four or five, rarely more. When flying, the wings often caused a flapping noise, similar to that made by the domestic Pigeon.

Dr. Newberry, in his Report on the zoölogy of Colonel Williamson's route, states that he met with this Pigeon at several points of his journey. He speaks of it as an attractive bird, about the size and with many of the habits of the domestic Pigeon. At McCumbers, northeast of Fort Reading, the first individual was seen and killed by one of his party. In that region they were not rare, and during the season of acorns they subsist on those of the scrub-oak, which abounds in that vicinity. On the Columbia they were seen in pairs, and near the Dalles might readily be mistaken for domestic doves.

Dr. Suckley found this Pigeon a very common bird in Washington Territory, especially west of the Cascade Mountains. He saw but a single flock containing five individuals east of those mountains. In 1856, the first birds of this species that arrived in the spring made their appearance about the 15th of May, which he found to be their customary time of arrival. One or two individuals were first seen, and within two or three days thereafter the main body of the migration followed. A small number remained throughout the summer to breed, the rest proceeded farther north. Those that remained generally made their nests in the thick fir forests near water. During the summer they subsisted on wild cherries and other berries, and later in the season, in the settled parts of the country, on grain. About the first week in September large flocks congregated on the stubble-fields in the

vicinity of Fort Steilacoom, and for two or three weeks thereafter their numbers were daily augmented by arrivals from the north. Some of the flocks that he saw in September, he states, must have contained at least a thousand individuals. He was told that on the cultivated districts on Cowlitz River, at the same season, they were in still greater numbers. By the 5th of October all had suddenly disappeared, except a few stragglers, generally young birds. In their flights, Dr. Suckley states, they are not quite as compactly crowded as in the case of the Passenger Pigeon. During the summer, while they were breeding, their cooing and calls could be heard quite a long distance. The name of this bird in the Nisqually language is "Hubboh," in imitation of their call. In the autumn these birds are said to be excellent eating.

According to Dr. Cooper, these Pigeons arrive at the Columbia River in April, and frequent all the forests of the Territory until the end of October, when they retire south. They keep about the borders of prairies and clearings, and frequently do much damage to fields of grain, though never found in such immense numbers as the common Passenger Pigeon east of the Mississippi. In June they lay two white eggs about the size of those of the House Pigeon, on the ground near streams or openings, and without constructing any nests. During the summer they were observed to feed upon wild peas, wild cherries, and other wild fruits and berries, which are very abundant. Later in the season they seem to depend upon acorns and other nuts. Their cooing is very much like that of the common Pigeon. He saw none east of the Cascade Range.

Mr. Ridgway did not meet with this Pigeon in his route from the Sierra Nevada eastward to the Rocky Mountains, along the line of the 40th parallel, and it is supposed not to occur in that latitude except near the Pacific Coast.

An egg of this Pigeon, given me by Dr. Holden, of Stockton, and obtained in the Coast Range, is oval in shape, equally rounded at either end, and of a dull white. It measures 1.49 inches in length by 1.15 in breadth. Another, in the Smithsonian collection, measures 1.55 by 1.20 inches.

## ***Columba leucocephala*, LINN.**

### **WHITE-HEADED PIGEON.**

*Columba leucocephala*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1758, 164. — BONAP. J. A. N. S. Ph. V, 1825, 30; Syn. 119; Am. Orn. II, 1828, 11, pl. xv. — NUTT. Man. I, 1832, 625. — AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 1834, 443; V, 557, pl. clxxvii; Birds Am. IV, 1842, 315, pl. cclxxx. — TEMM. Fig. et Gallin. I, 459. — GOSSE, Birds Jam. 1847, 299. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 599. — MARCH, P. A. N. S. 1863, 301 (says there are two species). — *Patagianus leucocephalus*, REICHENB. Syst. Av. 1851, xxv; Ic. Av. tab. 223 and 255. — BONAP. Consp. II, 1854, 54. — GUNDEL. Caban. Journ. 1856, 107. — REICH. Handb. 64, tab. 223, f. 1257, 1258, 255, 2863, 2864.



S. C. CARR. General. Plumage light, beneath primaries and tail darkened. Upper half of the neck, from the bill to the nape, pure white, not reaching the edge of the eyelids; a triangular



*Columba leucocephala*

patch of dark maroon-purple on the occiput, and below it a semicircular "cape" covering the nape, of metallic brassy-green, each feather distinctly bordered externally with velvety-black, producing a squamate appearance. Bill deep purple, the end light blue; iris white; legs deep lake-red. In skins the bill dusky tipped with yellowish, the feet yellow. Sexes similar. Length, 13.50; wing, 7.00; tail, 5.80.

HAB. Southern Keys of Florida (including Indian Key) and West Indies generally. Honduras (MOORE, P. Z. S. 1859, 61); Santa Cruz (NEWTON, Ibis, I, 253); Cuba (CAB. J. IV, 107);

Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. Bost. Soc. VII, 1859); Jamaica (GOSSE, B. J. 299); Porto Rico (TAYLOR, Ibis, 1864, 171); Cuba (GRNDL. Repert. I, 1866, 298); Santa Bartholemey (SEND. Ofv. 1869, 585).

HABITS. The White-headed Pigeon occurs in the more southern of the keys of Florida, but, so far as I am aware, has never been taken on any part of the mainland. It is an abundant species in Cuba, Jamaica, and in most of the other West India Islands.

This Dove, according to Audubon, arrives on the southern keys of Florida about the 20th of April, sometimes not until the first of May. On the 30th of April he shot several just after their arrival from across the Gulf Stream. He noticed them as they approached the shore, skimming along the surface of the water, and flying with great rapidity, in the manner of the House Pigeon. As they approached the land they rose to about a hundred yards, flying in circles as if to survey the country. To procure specimens, it was necessary to force them out from the dark retreats in which they had alighted. They were at all times exceedingly shy and wary, probably on account of the war that is incessantly waged against them, their flesh being very juicy and finely flavored. This shyness is only partially abated even during the breeding-season, as they will silently slide from their nest when sitting, if it is approached, and retreat to the dark shade of the mangroves, and do not return for an interval to their charge. They were more abundant in the more southern keys, except the sterile Tortugas.

According to Mr. March, there are two varieties of this Pigeon, known as the Baldpate in Jamaica, distinguished as the Mountain and the Mangrove Baldpate. The latter he has never met with in the mountains, but both

kinds resort at all times to the lowlands and mangrove-swamps along the coasts, and to the neighboring islands and keys (Pigeon Island and the two Goat Islands in particular), where they breed in numbers, making their nests in trees, some at high elevations, others so low as to be within reach of a person standing, according to the convenience of the site. Large numbers of squabs are often taken from these places and brought into the towns for sale. They feed in company in the morning and afternoon, and as they often feed at a distance from their roosting-places, large flocks are sometimes seen in the early morning and evening passing and repassing overhead, sometimes in high, at other times in low flight, going to and returning from the feeding-ground or convenient watering-place. Their food is grain, fruit, and berries, nuts and seeds; and they commit serious depredations on the Guinea-corn fields, not only by the quantity they devour, but by breaking down the brittle cornstalks with the weight of their bodies. They are easily kept in confinement, and often breed and become quiet and contented, but take the earliest opportunity of emancipation. The nest is a platform of sticks and twigs loosely put together, and bedded with softer materials, with a slight hollow in the centre. The eggs are two, glarish-white in color, varying in form and dimensions, but usually long oval, measuring 1.63 inches in length by 1.13 in breadth.

According to Mr. Leyland (*Ibis*, I, p. 222) this Pigeon inhabits the keys or small islands on the coast of Honduras.

It was found at St. Croix by Professor Alfred Newton, frequenting the hills in the north of the island, and occasionally in the brush-land on the south side. It was not very common, and was said to be a visitor from Porto Rico; but it undoubtedly breeds on the island of St. Croix, as Professor Newton obtained a young bird, shot July 28, which could not have left the nest many days. A caged specimen of this bird, that had been in the possession of Dr. Carden of St. Croix several years, was given to Professor Newton by that gentleman, and presented to the Zoölogical Society of London.

Mr. Audubon found the nests placed high or low according to circumstances, but never saw two on the same tree. He has met with them on the top of a cactus, only a few feet from the ground, or on a low branch of a mangrove almost touching the water. They are said to resemble that of the common Passenger Pigeon, but are more compact and better lined; the outer part being composed of small dry twigs, the inner of fibrous roots and grasses. The eggs are two, of an opaque white, roundish, and as large as those of the common Pigeon. Mr. Audubon thinks that these birds may have several broods in a season. None were known by him to visit the mainland of Florida.

In captivity these birds may be easily managed, and breed readily, as Mr. Audubon witnessed in the aviaries of Dr. Wilson and Rev. Dr. Bachman of Charleston, S. C.

In confinement they are said never to lay more than a single egg. The

measurement of their eggs, as given by Mr. Audubon, is 1.31 inches in length by 1.06 in breadth. Eggs in my cabinet from Cuba measure 1.40 by 1.03 inches. They are of a pure but not a brilliant white color, equal at either end and oval in shape.

## **Columba flavirostris, WAGLER.**

### **RED-BILLED DOVE.**

*Columba flavirostris*, WAGLER, Ibis, 1851, 549. — LAWRENCE, Annals N. Y. Ly. V. May, 1851, 116. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 598, pl. lxi. — IB. Mex. B. II, Birds 21, pl. xxiii. — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 508. *Chloranas flavirostris*, BONAP. Consp. Av. II, 1854, 52. — REICHENE, Handb. Gl. *Columba solitaria*, McCALL, Pr. A. N. Sc. Phila. III, July, 1847, 233 (Rio Grande, Texas. Description referring probably to this species).

SP. CHAR. Second and third quills equal, and decidedly longer than the first and fourth, also nearly equal. Tail truncate, slightly rounded. Head and neck all round, breast, and a large patch on the middle and lesser wing-coverts, light chocolate-red, the latter deeper and more opaque red; the middle of the back, scapulars, and tertials olive; the rest of body, wings, and tail very dark slaty-blue; the inferior and concealed surfaces of the latter black. Bill and legs yellow in the dried skin, said to be purple in life; eyes purple. Length, 14.00; wing, 8.00; tail, 5.70.

HAB. Lower Rio Grande, and Mexico, south to Costa Rica. Oaxaca (SCL. 1859, 391; Cordova, 1856, 309); Honduras (TAYLOR, Ibis, II, 226; SALV. Ibis, III, 355); City of Mexico (SCL. P. Z. S. 1864, 178); Southeastern Texas, breeding (DRESSER, Ibis, 1866, 23); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 134).

There is no trace of any metallic scale-like feathers on the neck of this species. The wing-feathers, including the greater coverts, are whitish on their external border. There is sometimes a tinge of the red on the inside of the wing.

The *C. inornata* of Jamaica (see synopsis) is wonderfully similar, except in the form and color of the bill; the plumage of the two does not differ in the minutest particular. The West Indian bird is much the larger, however, the bill black, and very differently shaped.

The *Columba solitaria* of McCall appears to be closely related to this species, but, judging from the description, seems to differ in having the head and neck bluish rather than red. It may possibly be the female of *C. flavirostris*, as this sex usually has a bluish tinge instead of red; the smaller size, too, would favor this supposition.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Columba solitaria*, McCALL, Pr. A. N. Sc. Phila. III, July, 1847, 233. "Length, 13 inches 9 lines, etc. Alar extent, 23 inches. Wing, from the flexure, 7 inches 5 lines. Tarsus, 1 inch; middle toe, 1 inch 2 lines; first toe, 9 lines, and longer than the third; nails light flesh-color; feet and legs deep red. Iris dark orange. Bill above, 1 inch 1 line, but feathered to within 5 lines of the tip; reddish near the base, whitish near the tip. Head chocolate-blue. Throat chocolate-white. Neck and breast bluish-chocolate with brilliant reflections. Back, belly, flanks, under wing-coverts, and greater exterior wing-coverts, light red color, the last faintly

HABITS. The Red-billed Dove claims a place in the North American fauna only as a resident in the valley of the Lower Rio Grande River. It appears also to be found on and near the gulf-coast of Mexico and Central America.

It was taken at New Leon, Mexico, in March, 1853, by Lieutenant Couch, and on the Rio Grande by Mr. A. Schott. It was first seen by the former in the thick woody bottoms of the San Juan, New Leon. The birds were quite common, but remained very secluded. They are said to be of very rapid flight.

Mr. G. C. Taylor (*Ibis*, 1860, p. 226) mentions finding these birds not uncommon on Tigre Island, in Honduras, but did not meet with them in the interior. He speaks of them as very handsome birds, but gives no account of their habits.

Mr. Henry E. Dresser found the Red-billed Dove quite common near Matamoras, and breeding there. During the autumn great quantities, as well as of the *leucoptera* and the *carolinensis*, are brought to the market for sale. At Brownsville, also, these birds were not uncommon, but were found for only a short distance towards the interior of Texas, and none were seen higher up the Rio Grande than Roma. A Mexican, who shot doves for the market, informed Mr. Dresser that he had found this species breeding near the town of Matamoras, and that it builds a nest somewhat similar to that of *Z. carolinensis*, but that its two eggs are somewhat larger. Their stomachs were found filled with a kind of blueberry.

Eggs in the Berlandier collection are oval in shape, equal and slightly tapering at either end, and of a creamy-white color. They measure 1.18 inches in length by .90 of an inch in breadth.

#### GENUS **ECTOPISTES**, SWAINSON.

*Ectopistes*, SWAINSON, Zool. Jour. III, 1827, 362. (Type, *Columba nigecatoria*, L.)

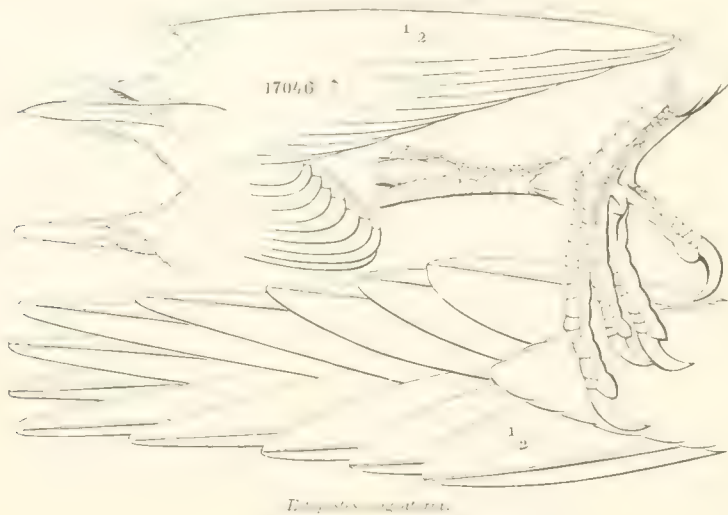
GEN. CHAR. Head very small. Bill short, black; culmen one third the rest of the head; feathers of the chin running very far forward; gonys very short. Tarsi very short, half covered anteriorly by feathers. Inner lateral claw much larger than outer, reaching to the base of the middle one. Tail very long and excessively cuneate; above as long as the wings. First primary longest. Black spots on scapulars; a black and a rufous spot on inner webs of tail-feathers.

This genus is readily distinguished from the other *Columbinæ* by the excessively lengthened and acute middle feathers. It formerly included the *Columba carolinensis*, but this, with more propriety, has been erected into a different genus, and will be found in the next section.

bordered with white. Lesser wing-coverts chocolate-red, forming a bright shoulder-spot of elliptical shape. Quill-feathers dusky, tinged with lead-color on the outer vanes. Third primary longest. Upper and under tail-coverts bluish lead-color. Tail, 5 inches, slightly rounded, of twelve feathers; dusky."



The *Ectopistes migratoria* is blue above, the male purplish-red beneath, the female brownish-ashy, passing into whitish behind. The wing above



*Ectopistes migratoria.*

and scapulars are spotted with bluish-black, the sides of the neck with metallic gloss of solferino-purple; the inner webs of tail-feathers have each a rufous and a black spot.

### ***Ectopistes migratoria*, SWAINSON.**

#### **WILD PIGEON; PASSENGER-PIGEON.**

*Columba migratoria*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 285. — GM. I, 389. — FORSTER, Phil. Trans. LXXI, 1772, 398. — WILSON, Am. Orn. I, 1808, 162, pl. aliv. — WAGLER, Syst. Av. 1827, No. 91. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 1831, 319; V, 561, pl. lxii. *Ectopistes migratoria*, SWAINSON, Zool. Jour. III, 1827, 355. — IB. F. Bor. Am. II, 1831, 363. — BON. Consp. Av. II, 1854, 59. — AUD. Syn. 1839, 194. — IB. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 25, pl. cclxxxv. — "REICH. Icones Av. tab. 249, figs. 1377, 1379." — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 600. — MAX. Cab. J. VI, 1858, 424. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, 122 (British Columbia, from coast; nest on ground). — COOPER & SUCKLEY, 218. — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 509. *Columba canadensis*, LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 284. — GM. I, 1788, 785. Female or young. (Prior name?) *Columba americana*, "KALM, It. II, 527." *Passenger Pigeon*, PENNANT, II, 322. — LATH. Syn. II, II, 661.

**SP. CHAR.** Tail with twelve feathers. Upper parts generally, including sides of body, head, and neck, and the chin, blue. Beneath, purple brownish-red, fading behind into a violet tint. Anal region and under tail-coverts bluish-white. Scapulars, inner tertials, and middle of back with an olive-brown tinge; the wing-coverts, scapulars, and inner tertials with large oval spots of blue-black on the outer webs, mostly concealed, except on the latter. Primaries blackish, with a border of pale bluish tinged internally with red. Middle tail-feather brown; the rest pale blue on the outer web, white internally; each with a patch of reddish-brown at the base of the inner web, followed by another of black. Sides and back of neck richly glossed with metallic golden-violet or reddish-

purple. Tibiæ bluish-violet. Bill black. Feet lake-red. The female is smaller, much duller in color, more olivaceous above; beneath, pale ash instead of red, except a tinge on the neck; the jugulum tinged with olive, the throat whitish. Length of male, 17.00; wing, 8.50; tail, 8.40.

HAB. North America to high Central Plains; West Humboldt Mountains, Nevada (September; RIDGWAY). Cuba (GUNDL. Rep. I, 1866, 302; CAB. J. IX, 112).

The blue of the side of the head extends to the throat and chin. The upper part of the back and lesser coverts are of a darker blue than the head and rump. The inner primaries are more broadly margined with light blue, which tapers off to the end. The axillars and under surface of the wing are light blue. The longest scapulars have the black on both webs. There is no blue on the outer web of the first tail-feather, which is white, as is the inferior surface of the tail generally.

In some specimens the entire head all round is blue.

The immature male varies in having most of the feathers of the head and body margined with whitish.

HABITS. The common Passenger Pigeon of North America is found throughout the continent in great abundance, from the Atlantic to the great Central Plains, and from the Southern States, in which it only occasionally occurs, to at least the 62d parallel of northern latitude, in the interior.

Richardson states that this Pigeon arrives in the fur countries in the latter part of May and leaves in October. On the coast of Hudson's Bay it reaches no farther than the 58th parallel, and only in very fine summers, but in the interior or in the warmer central districts it attains to the 62d degree. Mr. Hutchins mentions, as a remarkable occurrence, that a flock of these Pigeons visited York Factory and remained two days.

It is not found on the Pacific coast. Dr. Suckley only met with a single bird in immature plumage on a branch of Milk River, in Nebraska, about one hundred and seventy-five miles east of the Rocky Mountains; he thinks the eastern base may be considered their western limit. Dr. Cooper has seen it at Fort Laramie, but has never seen nor heard of it in Oregon, though Townsend mentions it as found there.

Dr. Woodhouse found these Pigeons common throughout the Indian Territory in the spring and fall, during their migrations.

Captain Blakiston noticed the first arrival of the Passenger Pigeons at Fort Carlton, on the 23d of May. By the middle of June numerous flocks



*Ectopistes migratorius*

were moving northward. These could, at a long distance, be readily distinguished from flocks of water-fowl or waders, by their flight being in no particular order. On the Mackenzie, Mr. Ross observed these birds as far north as Fort Norman in latitude 65°, while on the coast of Hudson's Bay they are only found as far as 58°, even in warm summers.

The Wild Pigeon appears to be almost entirely influenced in its migrations by the abundance of its food, excepting in those parts of the country in which it has not been known to remain during winter. Even in these movements it is largely influenced by instinctive considerations of food. Evidently the temperature has but little to do with their migrations, as they not unfrequently move northward in large columns as early as the 7th of March, with a thermometer twenty degrees below the freezing-point. In the spring of 1872 a large accumulation of these birds took place early in March, in the eastern portion of New York. They were present in the forests about Albany, and were taken in such immense numbers that the markets of New York and Boston were very largely supplied with them.

As early as the 10th of March they were ascertained to have in their ovaries full-grown eggs, ready for exclusion. In Kentucky they have been known, according to Audubon, to remain summer and winter in the same districts for several successive years, in consequence of the great abundance of food, while in other parts of the State none were to be met with. They suddenly disappeared as soon as the beech-mast had become exhausted, and did not return for a long period.

The Wild Pigeons are capable of propelling themselves in long-continued flights, and are known to move with an almost incredible rapidity, passing over a great extent of country in a very short time. It is quite a common and well-ascertained fact that Pigeons are captured in the State of New York with their crops still filled with the undigested grains of rice that must have been taken in the distant fields of Georgia or South Carolina, apparently proving that they must have passed over the intervening space within a very few hours. Audubon estimates the rapidity of their flight as at least a mile a minute.

The Wild Pigeons are said to move, in their flight, by quickly repeated flaps of the wings, which are brought more or less near to the body, according to the degree of velocity required. During the love-season they often fly in a circling manner, supporting themselves with both wings angularly elevated. Before alighting, they break the force of their flight by repeated flappings.

Their great powers of flight, and the ability thus given to change at will their residence, and their means of renewing a supply of food, are also thought to be seconded by a remarkable power of vision, enabling them to discover their food with great readiness. Mr. Audubon states that he has observed flocks of these birds, in passing over a sterile part of the country, fly high in the air, with an extended front, enabling them to survey hundreds of acres at once. When the land is richly covered with food, or the trees well sup-

plied with mast, they fly low in order to discover the part most plentifully supplied.

Several writers, who have witnessed the occasionally enormous flights of these Pigeons, have given very full and graphic accounts of their immense numbers that seem hardly credible to those who have not seen them. Mr. Audubon relates that in 1813, on his way from Henderson to Louisville, in crossing the barrens near Hardensburg, he observed these birds flying to the southwest in greater numbers than he had ever known before. He attempted to count the different flocks as they successively passed, but after counting one hundred and sixty-three in twenty-one minutes he gave it up as impracticable. As he journeyed on, their numbers seemed to increase. The air seemed filled with Pigeons, and the light of noonday to be obscured as by an eclipse. Not a single bird alighted, as the woods were destitute of mast, and all flew so high that he failed to reach any with a rifle. He speaks of their aerial evolutions as beautiful in the extreme, especially when a Hawk pressed upon the rear of a flock. All at once, like a torrent, and with a noise like that of thunder, they rushed together into a compact mass, and darted forward in undulating lines, descending and sweeping near the earth with marvellous velocity, then mounting almost perpendicularly in a vast column, wheeling and twisting so that their continued lines seemed to resemble the coils of a gigantic serpent. During the whole of his journey from Hardensburg to Louisville, fifty-five miles, they continued to pass in undiminished numbers, and also did so during the three following days. At times they flew so low that multitudes were destroyed, and for many days the entire population seemed to eat nothing else but Pigeons.

When a flight of Pigeons discovers an abundant supply of food, sufficient to induce them to alight, they are said to pass around in circles over the place, making various evolutions, after a while passing lower over the woods, and at length alighting; then, as if suddenly alarmed, taking to flight, only to return immediately. These manœuvres are repeated with various indications of indecision in their movements, or as if apprehensive of unseen dangers. During these manœuvres the flapping of their many thousand wings causes a reverberation suggestive of distant thunder. When at last settled upon the ground, they industriously search among the fallen leaves for the acorns and the beech-mast, the rear flocks continually rising, passing over the main body, and realighting. These changes are so frequent that at times the whole collection appears to be in motion. A large extent of ground is thus cleared in a surprisingly short space of time, and cleared with a completeness that is described as incredible. They are usually satiated by the middle of the day, and ascend to the trees to rest and digest their food. On these occasions the Pigeons are destroyed in immense numbers, and their abundance in large extents of the country has been very sensibly reduced.

In its movements on the ground, as also when alighted on the branches



of trees, the Wild Pigeon is remarkable for its ease and grace. It walks on the ground and also on the limbs of trees with an easy, graceful motion, frequently jerking its tail and moving its neck backward and forward.

Mr. Audubon states that in Kentucky he has repeatedly visited one of the remarkable roosting-places to which these birds resort at night. This one was on the banks of Green River, and to this place the birds came every night at sunset, arriving from all directions, some of them from the distance of several hundred miles, as was conjectured from certain observations. This roost was in a portion of the forest where the trees were of great magnitude. It was more than forty miles in length, and averaged three in breadth. It had been occupied as a roost about a fortnight when he visited it. Their dung was several inches deep on the ground, covering the whole extent of the roosting-place. Many trees, two feet in diameter, had been broken down by their weight, as well as many branches of the largest and tallest trees. The forest seemed as if it had been swept by a tornado. Everything gave evidence that the number of birds resorting to that part of the forest must be immense. A large number of persons collected before sunset to destroy them, provided with torches of pine-knots, and armed with long poles and guns. The Pigeons began to collect after sunset, their approach preceded, even when they were at a distance, by a noise like that of a hard gale at sea sounding in the rigging of a vessel. As the birds passed over him, they created a strong current of air. The birds arrived by thousands, fires were lighted, and the work of destruction commenced. Many were knocked down by the pole-men. In many cases they collected in such solid masses on the branches that several of their perches gave way and fell to the ground, in this way destroying hundreds of the birds beneath them. It was a scene of great confusion and continued until past midnight, the Pigeons still continuing to arrive. The sound made by the birds at the roost could be heard at the distance of three miles. As day approached, the noise in some measure subsided; and long before objects were distinguishable the Pigeons began to move off, and before daylight all that were able to fly had disappeared. The dead and wounded birds were then collected and piled into heaps by those who had assembled for the purpose.

Though for the most part living, moving, and feeding together in large companies, the Wild Pigeon mates in pairs for purposes of breeding. They have several broods in the season, and commence nesting very early in the spring, the time being considerably affected by the amount of food. In the spring of 1849 an immense number of these birds collected on Fays-ton Mountain, near Montpelier, Vt., although at the time of their coming the weather was very cold and the ground covered with snow. There they seemed to find a great abundance of food, berries of the mountain-ash and such other fruit as they could procure, and there they remained, breeding in great numbers, until late in the summer. They were still collected in

June, although the whole neighborhood was warring upon them for many miles around, and the markets of Boston and other places were largely supplied with them.

In the extensive forests of Kentucky, Mr. Audubon found them usually collecting and breeding in trees of great height, and always at a convenient distance from water, resorting thither in countless myriads. Their note, during breeding, is described as a short *coo-coo*, much briefer than in the domestic Pigeon, while their usual call-note is a repetition of the monosyllables *kec-kec-kec*, the first note being louder and the last fainter than the rest. In the love-season the male puts on the pompous manners peculiar to all Pigeons, and follows the female with drooping wings and expanded tail, the body being held in an elevated attitude and the throat swollen. Occasionally they caress one another in the same manner in which they feed their young, by introducing the bill of one into that of the other and disgorging the contents of their crops.

Their nests are composed of a few dry twigs laid crosswise, and built upon the branches of trees. From fifty to a hundred were seen by Audubon in the same tree, and were said to be frequently at a considerable height. The few I have seen were in low trees, and not more than ten feet from the ground. The eggs are never more than two in number, pure white, and of a broadly elliptical form. During incubation the male bird feeds the mate and afterwards assists in supplying the young birds, and both birds are conspicuous in their demonstrations of affection, both to each other and to their offspring. The young brood, usually both sexes in one nest, leave their parents as soon as they are able to shift for themselves.

In the New England States and in the more cultivated part of the country these birds no longer breed in large communities. The instance near Montpelier, in 1849, is the only marked exception that has come within my knowledge. They now breed in isolated pairs, their nests being scattered through the woods and seldom near one another.

The Wild Pigeon has been successfully kept in aviaries, and has occasionally bred in confinement.

Wilson's account of the habits of these Pigeons is substantially corroborative of that of Audubon. He witnessed their migrations in vast numbers, in various parts of the country, — in Western New York, in Pennsylvania, in various parts of Virginia, where he beheld their immense flocks with amazement, but where they were mere straggling parties compared with the congregated millions he saw in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. He also noted their habit of frequenting the same roosting-place night after night, even when they were compelled to fly sixty or eighty miles each day to their feeding-places. His account of their roosting-places is similar to that of Audubon, corroborating the accumulation of the dung covering the surface of the ground and destroying all the grass and underbrush, the breaking down of large limbs, and even of small trees, by the weight of the birds

clustering one above another, and the trees themselves at last killed as completely as if annihilated by a war.

One of the breeding-places visited by Wilson, not far from Shelbyville, Ky., stretched through the forest in nearly a north and south direction. This was several miles in breadth, and upwards of forty miles in extent. In this immense tract nearly every tree was furnished with nests wherever there were branches to accommodate them. He was informed by those who had sought to plunder the nests of the squabs, that the noise in the woods was so great as to terrify their horses, and that it was difficult for one person to hear another speak. The ground was strewn with broken limbs, eggs, and young Pigeons. Hawks were sailing about in great numbers, while from twenty feet upwards to the tops of the trees there was a perpetual tumult of crowding and fluttering multitudes of Pigeons, their wings resounding like thunder, and mingled with the frequent crash of falling trees. In one instance he counted ninety nests in a single tree.

When on his way from Shelbyville to Frankfort, Wilson witnessed an immense flight of these birds, and was astonished at their appearance. They were flying with great steadiness and rapidity in several strata deep and very close together. From right to left, as far as the eye could reach, this vast procession extended its immense breadth, seeming everywhere equally crowded. For more than an hour by the watch he stood and observed this prodigious procession, which, instead of diminishing, seemed rather to increase both in numbers and rapidity. Three hours later, as he was entering Frankfort, the living torrent above his head was as numerous and extended as when first observed. Wilson computed the number of Pigeons in this flight at over two thousand two hundred millions.

The most southern point at which this Pigeon is known to breed, as given by Wilson, was in the Choctaw country, in Mississippi, in latitude 32°.

Mr. Ridgway obtained a single specimen of this species in the West Humboldt Mountains, in September, 1867. It was a young bird, and had been feeding on the berries of a species of *Cornus*.

The eggs of the Wild Pigeon vary considerably in length, and also somewhat in breadth. They average about 1.45 inches in length and 1.05 in breadth. They are white in color, have an oval shape, and are equally rounded at both ends.

#### SUBFAMILY ZENAIDINÆ.

CHAR. Tarsi stout, lengthened; always longer than the lateral toes, and entirely without feathers; the tibial joint usually denuded. Tarsus sometimes with hexagonal scales anteriorly. Tail-feathers sometimes fourteen.

This subfamily is readily distinguished from the preceding by the longer and more denuded tarsi, the feet being much better fitted for a terrestrial life. The following sections belong to it:—

**Zenaidææ.** Size moderate. Wings lengthened, acute, the primaries much longer than the secondaries. Tarsus scutellate anteriorly. A blackish spot beneath the auriculars; tail-feathers tipped with white, and with a blackish subterminal bar. Sides of the neck with a metallic gloss.

Bill lengthened, much depressed. A white patch on the wing; no black spots on the scapulars; plumage ashy, lighter beneath. Tail of twelve feathers, rounded . . . . . *Melopelia.*

Bill smaller, more compressed. No white patch on the wing; scapulars with black spots. Above olivaceous, beneath vinaceous.

Tail of twelve feathers rounded . . . . . *Zenaida.*

Tail of fourteen feathers, graduated or cuneate . . . . . *Zenaidura.*

**Chamæpelieæ.** Size very small. Wings rounded, the primaries scarcely longer than the tertials. Tarsus scutellate anteriorly. No blackish spot beneath the auriculars; no metallic gloss on sides of the neck.

Tail of twelve feathers, lengthened (much longer than wings), doubly rounded, the lateral feathers much shorter; the three outer pairs with white terminally . . . . . *Scardafella.*

Tail of twelve feathers, short (much less than wings), simply rounded, the lateral feathers only slightly shorter; outer feathers without white terminally, or with only a slight edging. Wing-coverts with oblique black spots, and body without transverse blackish bars.

Outside of the tarsus with a narrow feathered strip; lining of the wing blackish . . . . . *Talpucota.*

Outside of the tarsus without a feathered strip; lining of the wing wholly rufous . . . . . *Chamæpelia.*

**Starnœnadeæ.** Size moderate (generally a little larger than *Zenaida*); form robust, or quail-like. Legs very stout; tarsi decidedly longer than the middle toe, variously scaled anteriorly. Wings short, very broad, and much rounded, but the primaries decidedly longer than the secondaries.

Legs very stout; tarsi covered with hexagonal scales; crown blue; a black gular patch, bordered below by white . . . . . *Starnœnas.*

Legs moderate; tarsi covered anteriorly with transverse scutellæ.

Crown never blue, and throat without black or white markings . . . *Geotrygon.*

The genera characterized above are all more or less nearly related to others belonging to South America, and many of these apparently form connecting links between the several North American ones. Thus, "*Columbina*" *picui*, Gray (of Chili), and *C. strepitans* (of Paraguay), are almost exactly intermediate between *Scardafella* and *Chamæpelia*, both in form and colors. "*Lep-toptila*" is in reality scarcely more than a very large *Chamæpelia* with an approach to *Zenaida* in more lengthened primaries, and to *Geotrygon* in the lengthened tarsus.

"*Peristera*" *cinerea* is again a slightly enlarged reproduction of *Chamæpelia*, with the same pattern of coloration, but without rufous on the inside of the wing.

*Starnœnas* and *Geotrygon* are nearly connected by the *G. chiriquensis*, which agrees with the genus to which it is referred in the scutellate tarsi, and with *Starnœnas* in the peculiar structure of the feathers of the neck, which have, as in that "genus," a stiff, compact structure, and rather raylike arrangement.



GENUS **MELOPELIA**, BONAP.*Melopelia*, BONAP. *Consp. Av.* II, Dec. 1854, 81. (Type, *Columba leucoptera*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Similar to *Zenaidura*, the orbital region and lore more naked; the bill longer; the middle toe longer than the middle shorter. Tarsal scutella in a single series anteriorly. First quill nearly as long as the second and third. A large white patch on wing-coverts, lower parts light ashy.

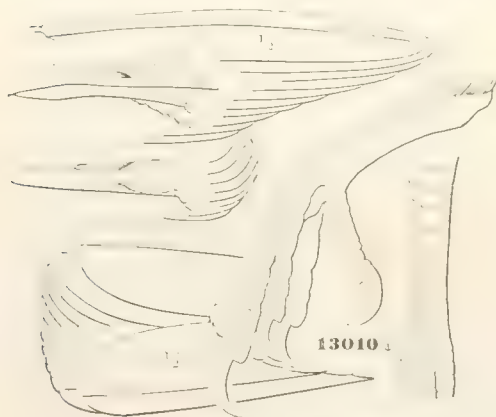
This genus, like nearly all the North American ones, is represented by but a single species in the United States.

**Melopelia leucoptera**, (LINN.) BONAP.

## WHITE-WINGED DOVE.

*Columba leucoptera*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1758, 164 (Jamaica). — GM. Syst. Nat. I, 1788, 773. — WAGL. Syst. Av. 1827, *Columba*, No. 71. — MCCALL, Pr. A. N. Sc. Phil. IV, 1848, 64. *Zenaidura leucoptera*, GRAY, Gen. B. *Turtur leucopterus*, GOSSE, B. Jan. 1847, 304. *Melopelia leucoptera*, BONAP. *Consp. Av.* II, 1854, 81. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 603. — REICHENB. Handb. Taub. 22, tab. 254, f. 1417; 255, f. 2869. — MARCH, P. A. N. S. 1863, 302. — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 515. ? *Columba hoilotti*, GM. S. N. I, 1788, 777. *Columba trudeaui*, AUD. Birds Am. VII, 1843, 352, pl. ccccxvi.

SP. CHAR. General color fine ashy, with an olivaceous cast on upper surface, the middle tail-feathers being decidedly brownish; secondaries and primaries blackish. Beneath paler

*Melopelia leucoptera*, Bonap.

ashy, with a light drab cast anteriorly (lightest on the throat), the abdomen and sides with a fine light-bluish cast; anal region white, crissum more bluish. Occiput with a purplish tinge. A spot of black, with steel-blue reflection below the ears; a large patch of white on the wing, covering the lower coverts from the elbow to the secondaries; secondaries margined terminally with white. Terminal fourth of tail-feathers, except the two medial, ashy-white, preceded by a subterminal blackish band. *Male* with faint purplish-golden reflections on the sides of the neck, and the throat and jugulum inclining to ochrey-vinaceous;

the occiput and nape decided purplish. *Female* with this scarcely apparent. *Male*: wing, 6.80; tail, 5.10; culmen, .84; tarsus, 1.06; middle toe, 1.10. *Female* slightly smaller.

HAB. Southern border of United States, from Texas to Arizona and Lower California; Mexico, south to Costa Rica, Cuba and Jamaica, Oaxaca, highlands (SCL. 1858, 305); Cordova (1856, 309); Jamaica (GOSSE, B. J. 304); Honduras (TAYLOR, Ibis, II, 227);

City of Mexico (Sch. P. Z. S. 1864, 178); Southeastern Texas, breeding (DRESSER, *Ibis*, 1866, 24); Cuba (GRUNDL. Rep. I, 1866, 301); Fort Whipple, Arizona (COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 93); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 139); Yucatan (LAWR. IX, 207).

However remarkable and exceptional the distribution of this species may appear in occurring in Cuba and Jamaica and in Mexico, from the Atlantic coast to Cape St. Lucas, and north to Santa Fé, New Mexico, we have yet been unable to find any tangible differences in specimens from these extreme localities. The Jamaica bird has rather a more decided wash of brown on the neck and forehead, the toes apparently shorter; but as specimens from the same locality vary in this respect, it is probable that in a large series such differences will disappear in the average.



*Columba leucoptera*

**HABITS.** This species is found on the Lower Rio Grande, in Arizona, and, according to Dr. Cooper, in California. It also occurs in Mexico, and was taken in Tamaulipas by Lieutenant Couch, March, 1858. It has also been met with in several of the West India Islands and in Central America.

This species is abundant in Jamaica, where, according to Mr. March, it is more a lowland than a mountain Dove. They are said to be gregarious, usually keeping in flocks of from ten to twenty, but in January and in February, in the Guinea-corn season, and at other times when the *Cerei* are in fruit, they congregate in large flocks, often of several hundreds. Their food is principally grain and seeds, but they are equally fond of the ripe fruit of the different species of *Cereus* abounding on the savannas and salines during the summer. Inland, the White-wings, in the same manner as the Baldpate, breed in solitary pairs; but in the mangrove swamps, and in the islands along the coast, they breed in company, many in the same tree. The nest is a frail platform of sticks, with a slight hollow lined with leaves and bark, and sometimes a few feathers. The eggs are two, of an oblong-oval shape, glarish-white in color, measuring 1.31 inches in length by .94 of an inch in breadth. Mr. March adds that the White-wing is often kept in confinement, where it occasionally breeds. It is at first quite wild, fluttering in alarm at the approach of any person, but afterwards becomes quite docile if attended with care. It has been known to cross and mate with the *Turtur risorius*, a bird which has been introduced into Jamaica. Mr. March had, at the time his paper appeared, a male White-wing mated with a female Ringdove.

This species was found at Omoa, Honduras, by Mr. Leyland, and by Mr. Salvin about Dueñas, Guatemala, where it was one of the common Doves. It was found on the ground, in the open savannas.

Mr. G. C. Taylor (Ibis, 1860) found this bird abundant in Central America, especially on the Pacific coast and in the environs of Comayagua. He adds that he found this species most plentiful in the vicinity of houses and corn-fields, while the *Z. carolinensis* seem to prefer the woods and open plains. Both were easily shot, and were found to be excellent eating.

Mr. Dresser found this species very common near Matamoras and Brownsville, and as far into the interior of Texas as Sal Colorado, after which it becomes rare, and he never saw any farther east or north than the Rio Nueces. It is not uncommon at Eagle Pass, where he saw many in cages in the huts of the Mexicans. Their stomachs were found to contain maize and caterpillars.

Mr. Xantus, in his notes upon the birds of Cape St. Lucas, mentions finding several of the nests and eggs of this Dove. All the nests mentioned contained two eggs. One was in the fork of a leafless tree, about ten feet from the ground; another was about six feet high and placed on a small dwarf-oak; and a third, found May 20, was in a thorn-bush, about ten feet from the ground. In one instance a single egg, already incubated, was found on the top of a large cactus trunk, but without any indication of a nest.

The eggs of this species are oval in shape, white, of equal size at either end, and measure 1.35 inches by .92.

#### GENUS **ZENAIDA**, BONAP.

*Zenaidura*, BONAPARTE, Geog. & Comp. List, 1838. (Type, *Columba zenaidura*, Br.)

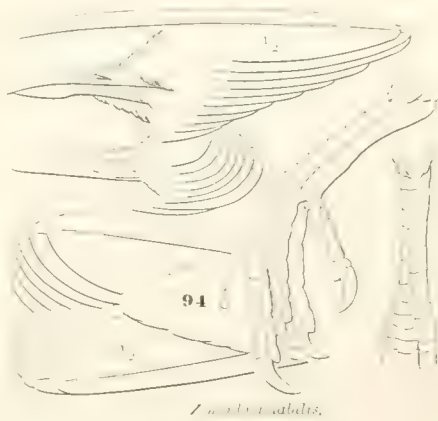
GEN. CHAR. Bill black; the culmen about two fifths the rest of the head. Tarsi a little shorter than the middle toe and claw, but considerably longer than the lateral toes. Tarsus with broad scutellæ anteriorly, those on the lower half bifid, making two hexagonal series. Inner lateral toe a little the longer. Hind toe and claw as long as the inner lateral without claw. Wings lengthened; second and third quills longest. Tail short, about two fifths the wings, rounded or a little graduated. Orbits feathered, especially anterior to the eye; the lids bare.

But one species of this genus belongs to our fauna, and this is probably but an occasional visitor.

**Zenaida amabilis, BONAP.****ZENAIDA DOVE.**

*Columba zenaida*, BONAP. J. A. N. S. V, 1825, 30. — *Id.* Am. Orn. II, 1828, pl. xv. — WAGLER, Isis, 1829, 744. — NUTTALL, Mss. I, 1832, 625. — *Aud.* Orn. II, 1844, 354; V, 558, pl. clxii. — *Id.* Birds Am. V, 1842, 1, pl. cclxxxii. *Zenaida amabilis*, BON. List, 1833. — *Id.* Consp. II, 1854, 82. — GOSSE, Birds Jam. 1847, 307. — REICHENBACH, Icones Av. "tab. 255." — GUNDLACH, Cabanis's Journ. 1856, 111. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 602. — REICH. Handb. Taub. 21, tab. 255, f. 2867, 2868; 254, f. 1412. — MARCH, P. A. N. S. 1863, 352. *Zenaida aurita*, GRAY, not *Columba aurita* of Lichtenstein (*Z. maculata*), nor of Temminck (*Z. martinicana*), fide Bonaparte.

**SP. CHAR.** Wings very long, reaching to the terminal third of the tail. Above reddish-olive, variously glossed with gray; the top of the head and the under parts violet-purplish red, paler on the chin and throat. Inside of wings, and sides of body, blue; greater wing-coverts tinged with the same. Quills dark brown; the secondaries tipped with white. Inner tail-feathers like the back; the others blue above; all with a subterminal bar of black, beyond which the blue is lighter, assuming a whitish tint on the exterior feathers. Wing-coverts with concealed spots of black, which are more visible on the tertials; a spot of the same below the ear. Bill black. Feet yellowish. Length, 10.00; wing, 6.00; tail, 4.00.



**HAB.** Florida Keys. Chiefly on or near Indian Key and the West Indies. Santa Cruz (NEWTON, Ibis, I, 253, eggs); Cuba (CAB. J. IV, III; GUNDL. Rep. I, 1866, 301); Bahamas (BRYANT, Pr. B. VII, 1859); Jamaica (GOSSE, B. J. 317); Sombrero (LAWR. VIII, 99); Porto Rico (BRYANT, B. P. 1866).

Among many specimens of this species before us is one from Mr. Audubon's collection, probably procured in Florida. It must be much rarer now than formerly on the keys, as several collections of birds made on Indian Key do not include any specimens.

The *Z. hypoleuca*, Gray,<sup>1</sup> of South America, is very similar, but lacks any trace of the broad white bar at the end of the secondaries. There is more white on the tail, the feathers of which are narrower at the ends; besides, the colors generally are lighter, the crissum being creamy-white.

**HABITS.** The Zenaida Dove was found by Mr. Audubon to be a transient visitor of the keys of East Florida, where, according to his observations, they made their first appearance among the islands around Indian Key about the 15th of April. There they continued to increase in numbers until

<sup>1</sup> *Zenaida hypoleuca*, "GRAY," BONAP. Consp. II, 1857, 83.



October, when they all returned to the West India Islands, whence they came, and where they are most numerous. The males were observed to reach the keys in which they passed the summer to breed before the females, and were heard cooing, as if in search of their mates, at least a week before the arrival of the latter. They begin to lay their eggs about the first of May. When they leave, in their autumnal migrations, they depart in small groups by families.

These birds are said by Mr. Audubon to be Ground Doves in habit. Their flight resembles that of the so-called Ground Dove, and is seldom higher than the tops of the mangroves, and never to any considerable distance except during their migrations. Though they alight on trees with ease, and can walk well among their branches, they spend the greater portion of their time on the ground, and walk well there, walking or running in search of food with lightness and celerity, and invariably roost on the ground.

Their flight is similar to that of the Carolina Dove in the firm movements of the wings, though they do not produce the same whistling sounds. In flying over the water they keep near its surface; and when started from the ground they only fly to a short distance, and realight in the grass or a thicket. They are extremely gentle, so much so that Mr. Audubon has occasionally approached so near as to almost touch them with his gun as they stood gazing at him, apparently devoid of all fear.

They breed in the few keys that are covered with grass and low shrubs. They always place their nest on the ground, often with so little concealment that it may be easily discovered by any one searching for it. Occasionally it is placed between tufts of grass, the tops of which bend over and conceal it. A small hole is scooped in the sand in which a slight nest, composed of matted blades of dry grasses, is placed, circular in form, and embedded in an outer collection of dry leaves and twigs. The whole fabric is said to be more compact than the nest of any other Pigeon. The eggs, always two, are described as pure white and translucent.

When sitting on her eggs or on her young, the female rarely moved from them except when an attempt was made to catch her, which she always evaded with great dexterity, gliding with great quickness to a short distance, and watching the movements of the intruder with drooping wings and an air of deep sorrow, her whole frame trembling as if with intense cold.

Mr. Audubon took alive two of the young birds, which he fed from his mouth with Indian-corn meal. This they ate with avidity, until placed under the care of a common tame Pigeon, that at once fostered them. They lived, and were taken to Dr. Bachman in Charleston.

Their notes are said to closely resemble the cooing of the Carolina Dove, but are somewhat more soft and tender. During midday, when the heat in the central parts of the keys is intense, these birds are silent.

Their flesh was found to be excellent, and they were generally very fat. They fed on grass seeds, on the leaves of certain aromatic plants, and on

various kinds of berries, — among others, one highly poisonous to man, — and mingle with their food particles of shells and gravel. They have two broods in a season.

According to Mr. Audubon, their eggs measure 1.25 inches in length by .87 of an inch in breadth, and are abruptly pointed at one end. He states that they propagated readily in the aviary of the Earl of Derby, some being let loose in the hope of introducing them into England.

This species, known in Jamaica as the Pea Dove, is not, according to March, gregarious, and, although terrestrial in habits, is often seen and heard on trees, and also roosts there. It nests indiscriminately on the ground or in trees, making a slight platform of sticks and twigs, loosely put together. The eggs are two, oval or roundish-oval in shape, and white. They measure from 1.20 to 1.32 inches in length by an inch in breadth. It is a favorite cage-bird, and though apparently very timid and restless, becomes very tame and docile, and will take grain from the hand or lips of its feeder.

In Santa Cruz it is known as the Mountain Dove, and was there found very common by Mr. Newton. It afforded excellent sport and was very good eating. It was not only numerous on the hills, but was likewise plentiful in all parts of the island sufficiently overgrown with brush. Mr. Newton did not find it so terrestrial in its habits as it is stated to be by some writers. Its flight is said to be remarkably rapid. It breeds from April to the end of July, and is said to build the ordinary Pigeon's nest, — a mere platform of twigs in a bush or tree at any height from a few feet to twenty. It lays two eggs, which, in Santa Cruz, were found by Mr. Newton to be perfectly white, and not of a drab hue, as stated by Mr. Gosse. The young birds are often taken from the nest and brought up without much difficulty. The cooing of this Dove is stated to much resemble the noise made by sounding a conch-shell.

The eggs of the Zenaida Dove are more rounded in their shape than those of most of our Pigeons, are white, equally obtuse at each end, and measure 1.30 inches in length by .90 in breadth.

#### GENUS **ZENAIIDURA**, BONAP.

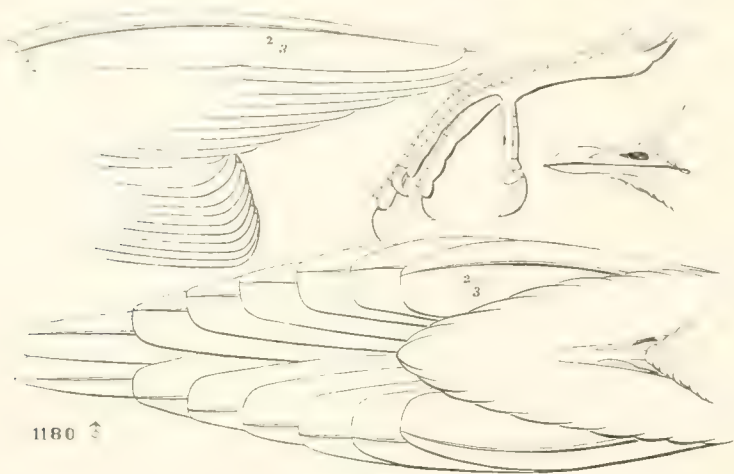
*Zenaidura*, BONAP. *Consp. Avium*, II, 1854, 84. (Type, *Columba carolinensis*, L.)

*Perissurus*, CAR. *Jour. fur Orn.* IV, 1856, 111. (Same type.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill weak, black; culmen from frontal feathers about one third the head above. Tarsus not quite as long as middle toe and claw, but considerably longer than the lateral ones; covered anteriorly by a single series of scutellæ. Inner lateral claw considerably longer than outer, and reaching to the base of middle. Wings pointed; second quill longest; first and third nearly equal. Tail very long, equal to the wings; excessively graduated and cuneate, of fourteen feathers.

The fourteen tail-feathers render this genus very conspicuous among the North American doves. It was formerly placed with the Passenger-Pigeon in *Ectopistes*, but has nothing in common with it but the lengthened tail,

as it belongs to a different subfamily. At present three species are known, two of them recently described. Unless *Z. yucatanensis* proves to be a



*Zenaidura carolinensis.*

hybrid between *Zenaida amabilis* and *Zenaidura carolinensis*, it may be expedient to merge *Zenaida* and *Zenaidura* into one, since, if *yucatanensis* prove to be a permanent form, the additional pair of tail-feathers is all that is left to characterize *Zenaidura*; and when we consider that the wedge-tailed *Haliastur pelagicus* has fourteen tail-feathers, while the round-tailed species have only twelve, it seems reasonable to consider the difference as merely specific in this case also.

**A.** Secondaries broadly tipped with white.

**Z. yucatanensis.**<sup>1</sup> Beneath entirely deep purplish-vinaceous. Wing, 6.00; tail, 4.90; culmen, .58; tarsus, .85; middle toe, .90. *Hab.* Yucatan.

**B.** Secondaries not tipped with white.

**Z. carolinensis.** Beneath light purplish-vinaceous anteriorly; crissum nearly white. Wing, 5.90; tail, 6.00; culmen, .50; tarsus, .86; middle toe, .82. *Hab.* Whole of North America, south to Panama; West Indies.

**Z. graysoni.**<sup>2</sup> Beneath entirely uniform deep reddish-cinnamon. Wing, 6.00; tail, 5.15; culmen, .84; tarsus, 1.08; middle toe, .97. *Hab.* Socorro Island, western coast of Mexico.

<sup>1</sup> *Zenaidura yucatanensis*, LAWRE. ANN. N. Y. IX, 1869. This bird is so exactly intermediate between the *Z. carolinensis* and *Zenaida amabilis*, as to lead us to strongly suspect it is a hybrid between the two. With the *Z. carolinensis* it agrees only in possessing fourteen tail-feathers: the coloration and size and shape of the bill being exactly those of *Z. amabilis*, while the tail-feathers are intermediate in length and shape between those of the two species. The colors differ from those of *Z. amabilis* only in being of a just appreciably lighter shade, there being the same broad white tip to the secondaries, brilliant steel-blue sub-auricular spot, and deep reddish crissum, characterizing the *Z. amabilis*, as distinguished from *Z. carolinensis*.

<sup>2</sup> *Zenaidura graysoni*, LAWRE. ANN. N. Y. LYC. February, 1871, 17. A very distinct species, remarkable for its large, very long, and much depressed bill, and deep ferruginous, instead of pinkish-vinaceous, lower parts. The specimens are unfortunately all young birds, though they are fully grown.

**Zenaidura carolinensis, BONAP.****CAROLINA OR COMMON DOVE.**

*Columba carolinensis*, LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 286, No. 37. — LATHAM, Ind. II, 1799, 613. — WILSON, Am. Orn. V, 1812, 91, pl. xliii. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 1831, 91; V, 1839, 555, pl. xvi. — NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 626. *Turtur carolinensis*, BRISSON, I, 110, pl. viii. *Ectopistes carolinensis*, RICH. List, 1837. — BON. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 36, pl. cclxxxvi. *Zenaidura carolinensis*, BONAP. Consp. Av. II, 1854, 84 (type). — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 604. — RIDGWAY, Handb. Toub. 19, tab. 249, f. 1386. — 82. — COOP. & SUCKL. 218. — COOP. Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 512. *Perissura carolinensis*, CAB. Cab. Jour. 1856, 111, 112 (type). *Columba marginata*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 286, No. 40 (best description). — WAGLER, Syst. Av. 1827, No. 91. — IB. Isis, 1831, 519. *Ectopistes carolinensis*, GRAY, List. Br. Mus. *Ectopistes not quailus*, WOODHOUSE, Pr. A. N. S. VI, June, 1852, 104. — IB. Expl. Zuni & Color. 1853, 93; Birds, pl. v (Canadian river, Ark. Immature bird). *Zenaidura carolinensis*, BONAP. Consp. Av. II, 1854, 85.

**SP. CHAR.** Tail-feathers fourteen. Above bluish, although this is overlaid with light brownish-olive, leaving the blue pure only on the top of the head, the exterior of the wings, and the upper surface of the tail, which is even slightly tinged with this color. The entire head, except the vertex, the sides of the neck, and the under parts generally, light brownish-vinaceous, strongly tinged with purple on the breast, becoming lighter behind, and passing into brownish-yellow or creamy-ochraceous on the anal region, tibiae, and under tail-coverts. Sides of the neck with a patch of metallic purplish-red. Sides of body and inside of wings clear light blue. Wing-coverts and scapulars spotted with black, mostly concealed, and a small oblong patch of the same, with a steel-blue reflection, below the ear. Tail-feathers seen from below blackish, the outer web of outermost white, the others tipped with the same, the color becoming more and more bluish to the innermost, which is brown. Seen from above there is the same gradation from white to light blue in the tips; the rest of the feather, however, is blue, with a bar of black anterior to the light tip, which runs a little forward along the margin and shaft of the feather. In the sixth feather the color is uniform bluish, with this bar; the seventh is without a bar. Bill black, the angle of the mouth carmine. Female smaller, and with less red beneath. Length of male, 12.85; wing, 5.75; tail, 6.70. Bare orbits pale blue, with a green tint; iris dark brown; feet lake-red. *Young* with the feathers of upper parts and jugulum margined with paler; the tints more brownish.

*Zenaidura carolinensis*

**HAB.** Throughout United States from Atlantic to Pacific. Cuba; Middle America to Panama. Localities: Oaxaca (SCL. 1859, 391); Cordova (1856, 359); Guatemala (IBIS, I, 222); Cuba (CAB. J. IV, III; GUNDEL. Rep. I, 1866, 301); Honduras (TAYLOR, IBIS, II, 227); Southeastern Texas (DRESSER, IBIS, 1866, 24, breeds); Fort Whipple, Arizona (COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 93); Costa Rica (LAWR. IX, 139); Yucatan (IX, 207).



Specimens from the whole of North America, south to Costa Rica and the West India Islands, are identical in colors and proportions.

Specimens from Cuba, Jamaica, and other West India Islands, resemble examples from the eastern United States, but are considerably smaller, the wing measuring less than 5.50 inches. The dark blotches on the wings appear of unusual size, the rufous tinge on the back is more decided, and the under parts are more deeply colored. In these respects they resemble somewhat skins from Cape St. Lucas, collected by Mr. Xantus.

**HABITS.** The Carolina Dove is found throughout the United States, in nearly all parts, from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada, and from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific. It occurs also in the West Indies, in Mexico, and in Central America. It is found in the southern part of Maine as far to the eastward as Calais, but was not collected by Mr. Verrill at Norway, and is not known to occur in the northern part of that State. Farther west, it is met with to the Canada line; a few being known to breed near Hamilton, and others to pass the winter near Salt Springs, according to Mr. McIlwraith. They occur with more or less abundance in different parts of Massachusetts, but are generally quite rare except in one or two localities. In nearly all the rest of the United States they are widely and generally distributed, and often abundant. In some parts of the country they are cherished for their confiding trust in the protection of man; while in others they are hunted on account of their delicacy as food, and are very shy and difficult of approach. In Carlisle, Penn., I found them one of the most common birds, frequenting the gardens and orchards, and breeding often in close proximity to the houses. In Western Massachusetts, on the other hand, where they were once quite abundant, they have been so persistently hunted that they are very shy, and have become quite rare.

In Kansas and in Colorado they were frequently found by Mr. Allen, and in the latter region also by Messrs. Aiken and Holden. On the Plains, in the absence of any trees in which to build, they were in the habit of constructing their nests on the ground, in some instances depositing their eggs in a mere depression in the sand, with hardly any pretence for a nest.

This bird was obtained in Tamaulipas, Mexico, by Lieutenant Couch; at Ringgold Barracks, Texas, by Mr. J. H. Clark; near San Elizario, by Dr. Kennerly; and on the Colorado, by Mr. Schott. Mr. Clark found the vicinity of Ringgold Barracks a great resort for many birds of this family for the purpose of nesting; the luxuriant development of the *Opuntia*, and other vegetation equally impassable, affording the means of defence. Hundreds of at least half a dozen species were to be seen every evening on the banks of the river after water. Lieutenant Couch found it in great numbers from the Rio Grande to beyond the Sierra Madre, generally near the ranches, though often in the forests. It seemed inclined to court the society of man for protection and food. It was also very abundant, according to Dr. Kennerly, in the vicinity of San Elizario, banding in large flocks, and

feeding in the wheat and corn fields. It was also observed as far west as Santa Cruz, in Sonora.

Dr. Newberry met with this Dove in all parts of California and Oregon visited by him. Dr. Suckley mentions it as very abundant throughout Washington Territory and Oregon. At Fort Steilacoom it arrives and departs at about the same time as the *Columba fasciata*. Dr. Cooper states it to be common about prairies and farms of the interior, and probably some remain all winter in the Territory, though they rarely appear at any time near the coast border.

Dr. Kennerly found this species about Bill Williams Fork, in New Mexico, and also in the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas, and along the Gulf coast; but travelling west about two hundred miles from the former place, they seemed suddenly to disappear.

According to Mr. Salvin, this Dove was very abundant about Dueñas, inhabiting only the open districts. It congregated in flocks, and was resident. Mr. G. C. Taylor frequently met with it in Honduras, where they were generally seen in small flocks of from six to ten.

Dr. Woodhouse mentions that the mournful notes of these birds were to be heard continually throughout the Indian Territory and the greater part of Texas and New Mexico, in all of which countries it breeds.

Mr. Dresser found this Dove a familiar resident in every part of Texas and Mexico that he visited. He saw many of their nests, all slightly built of sticks placed on the branch of a mesquite tree or bush, containing two pure-white eggs. In two instances the nests were on the ground. He met with one nest with fresh eggs as late as September 7.

These birds are migratory in the Northern States, and partially so in the Middle States, their movements being irregular, and evidently dependent upon the abundance of their food. In North and South Carolina, and in other parts of the country south of Pennsylvania, they collect together in the winter months in considerable numbers. Wilson states that on the 2d of February he saw a flock of many hundreds of these birds near Newbern, N. C.; and near the Savannah River, in Georgia, the woods were swarming with them. They return to the North in March or early in April, and disperse very generally over the country in pairs, rarely more than two or three of these being seen together. They are then occasionally to be seen in roads, dusting themselves or procuring gravel. Where not molested, they often visit the farm-yards, and even occasionally feed with the poultry, take water from the drinking-places of the cattle, and become partially domesticated.

When their breeding-season is over, usually early in August, they again collect in small flocks, which unite in larger collections when they move southward in their migrations.

Their flight is rapid, vigorous, and strong, and the flapping of their wings is accompanied by a peculiar whistling sound. They can fly with great

swiftness, can readily alight on trees, and move with facility among the branches.

Their love-notes, which commence in the early spring, are celebrated for their peculiarly sad and touching plaintiveness of sound, though the birds themselves exhibit in their appearance and manners at this time anything but an appearance of grief or mourning, being exceedingly lively and sportive in their endearments. These notes are repeated almost continually, in a succession of four or five notes sounding like *ah-coo-roo-coo* or *ah-cōō-*

*roo-coo-roo*.

This Pigeon feeds on seeds, grain, buckwheat, Indian corn, the berries of various shrubs and plants, and the smaller acorns of the live-oak and other oaks. They are also accused of visiting the gardens and consuming peas. They swallow great quantities of gravel.

In Pennsylvania they are said to nest as early as the first of May. They probably have more than one brood in a season, as the nests found at Carlisle about the middle of June were found to contain perfectly fresh eggs. Their nest is a rudely constructed fabric of small twigs laid together in an inartistic manner, and lined with a few finer stems and rootlets, and is placed on the horizontal branch of a tree, in a vine or evergreen, or even on the ground. The last was the general position of their nests on the Plains, and occasionally is noticed at the East. Wilson found nests thus placed in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Dr. Coues mentions this bird as an abundant summer resident in Arizona, where it arrives the last week in April and remains into October. The presence of this bird on the dry sandy wastes of that Territory always proved a sure indication of the presence of water, the nature of its food, consisting ordinarily of dry hard seeds, rendering an abundant supply of water necessary to its existence.

Mr. Audubon states that these birds breed in Louisiana in April, and sometimes as early as March, and have there two broods. They roost at night on the ground, among the long grasses found growing in abandoned fields; and occasionally they resort to the dead foliage of trees, and to various kinds of evergreens. Their flesh is said to be remarkably fine, tender and juicy, especially when the birds are fat, and by some is regarded as superior to that of either the Snipe or the Woodcock.

This Dove can easily be induced to breed in aviaries, even though caught when old, and will have several broods in a season.

In Southern Illinois they have been observed by Mr. Ridgway to breed in various situations, either on the ground in grain-fields, on the tops of stumps, or the top of a rail fence, as well as in trees and bushes. They nest from the beginning of April to the middle of September. They were also remarkably abundant along the line of the 40th parallel, according to Mr. Ridgway, even in the most desert tracts.

The eggs of this species measure 1.15 inches in length by .86 in breadth;

they are of an oblong-oval shape, white in color, and nearly equal at either extremity.

### GENUS **SCARDAFELLA**, BONAP.

*Scardafella*, BON. *Consp. av.*, II, 1854, 85. (Type, *Calundala squamosa*, TEMM.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill lengthened; culmen more than half the length of the head measured from frontal feathers. Feet as in *Chamæpelia*. Wing with the tertials nearly as long as the primaries; shorter, however, than the first primary. Tail considerably longer than the wing, of twelve feathers, of peculiar shape; the ten middle feathers nearly even, or very slightly decreasing toward the sides, but the intermediæ considerably shorter, while the lateral pair are much the shortest; the feathers are narrow, especially toward the end, but the tip is obtuse.



*Scardafella inca*.

33658

Two species are known; one North American, the other confined to South America.

#### Species and Varieties.

COMMON CHARACTERS. Brownish-gray above, paler, and with a vinaceous cast anteriorly, beneath. Each feather with a terminal dusky crescentic bar, producing a squamate appearance; inner webs of quills chestnut; axillars black; about terminal half of three outer tail-feathers white.

**S. squamosa**.<sup>1</sup> A white patch on the wing-coverts and secondaries; abdomen and crissum white. Black crescentic bars very heavy. Wing, 3.90; tail, 4.10. *Hab.* Brazil, Ecuador.

**S. inca**. No white patch on wings; abdomen and crissum pale ochraceous. Black bars very faint on breast, obsolete on throat. Wing, 3.75; tail, 4.40. *Hab.* Mexico and Guatemala; Rio Grande of Texas.

### **Scardafella inca**, BONAP.

#### SCALY DOVE.

*Scardafella inca*, (BONAP.) SCL. P. Z. S. 1859, 391. — REICHENB. *Handb.* 19, tab. 250, f. 1393; tab. 253, f. 1410. — ELLIOT, *Illust.* II, pl. xxxvii. — COOP. *Orn. Cal.* I, 1870, 519. *Scardafella squamosa* ("TEMME.") WAGL. *Isis*, 1831, 519 (not of Temminck!). — BAIRD, *Birds N. Am.* 1858, 605.

SP. CHAR. Above ashy-brown, becoming purer and lighter ashy on the wings. Beneath pale ashy-lilaceous, with a pinkish tinge anteriorly, becoming pale ochraceous on the abdomen, tibiae, and crissum. Outer webs and ends of primaries, and tail-feathers (except the intermediæ), dusky. Every feather (except rectrices and primaries) terminated with a crescentic bar of dusky; these bars heaviest on the mantle, upper tail-coverts, and on

<sup>1</sup> *Scardafella squamosa*. *Calundala squamosa*, TEMM. *Pig. et Gal.* I, 59. A specimen of this species from Venezuela has the black bars everywhere twice as broad as in Brazilian examples.



the sides and flanks, faintest on the jugulum, obsolete on throat. Primaries and lining of wing mostly deep chestnut; axillars black; lateral tail-feather with the terminal half



*Scolecophagus*

white, on both webs; second and third feathers with a gradually decreasing amount of white. Sexes similar. *Young* similar, but feathers faintly mottled, and markings less sharply defined. Wing, 3.75; tail, 4.40; culmen, .47; tarsus, .57; middle toe, .58. *Female* a little smaller.

HAB. Rio Grande Valley, south to Guatemala, Arizona (Tucson, Bendire); Oaxaca (SCL. 1859, 391, eggs); Cordova (1856, 309); Guatemala (Ibis I, 223); Honduras (TAYLOR, Ibis, II, 227); City of Mexico (SCL. P. Z. S. 1864, 178.)

Specimens from Nicaragua to Texas and Mazatlan do not vary appreciably.

HABITS. Our information in regard to the distribution and habits of this species is quite incomplete. It was met with near Cadereita, in the State of New Leon, Mexico, by Lieutenant Couch, who procured a specimen April 18, 1853.

It was also found in flocks in company with *Chamæpelia rufipennis*, near San Pedro and Peten, Honduras, by Leyland. Mr. Salvin met with only a single specimen at Dueñas. On the coast it was more numerous, resembling in its habits the common species of the district, *Chamæpelia passerina*.

The "Long-tailed Ground Dove" is said by Mr. G. C. Taylor to be very common in Honduras, where it is generally seen in pairs. They were found to be very good eating, but too small to repay their cost where ammunition was so scarce.

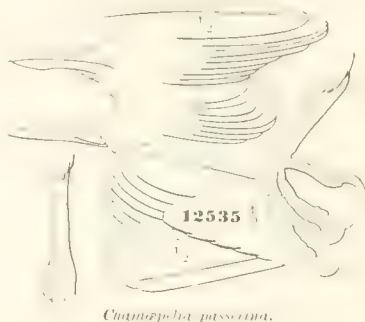
It was found breeding near Laredo, Texas, by Dr. H. B. Butcher, July 1, 1866. The nest (S. I. 12,896) is said to have been built in the fork of a small mesquite-tree, and to have contained two eggs. The eggs are similar to those of the *Chamæpelia passerina*, white, of an oval shape, nearly equally obtuse at either end.

Mr. Xantus found this Dove breeding abundantly at Cape St. Lucas. The maximum number of eggs was invariably two. One nest was found in a leafless acacia about six feet from the ground; another, found May 26, was about five feet high, in a small thorn-bush; a third was at the height of eight feet, and also placed in a bush; others were placed in small oaks, in cacti, in opuntia, and other situations, all above the ground at heights varying from five to eight feet.

The eggs of this Dove are of a white color, are oval in their shape, of about equal size at either end, and measure .91 of an inch in length by .70 in breadth.

GENUS **CHAMÆPELIA**, SWAINSON.*Chamæpelia*, SWAINSON, Zool. Jour. III, 1827, 361. (Type, *Columba passerina*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Size very small. Bill slender, elongated. Culmen more than half the head measured from frontal feathers. Legs stout. Tarsi longer than lateral toes; equal to the middle without its claw; covered anteriorly by a single series of scutellæ. Wings broad; the tertials excessively lengthened, nearly as long as the primaries, quite equal to the first primary. Tail nearly as long as the wings; rounded laterally.



This group embraces the most diminutive Doves known to naturalists. A single species is found abundantly in the southern United States; another is found in northern South America. They may be distinguished as follows:—

**C. passerina.** Feathers of jugulum with a dusky central spot; occiput and nape squamated with dusky. *Hab.* Southern Atlantic and Gulf States, whole of Mexico (including Lower California), Central America, New Granada, Venezuela, and West Indies.

**C. griseola.**<sup>1</sup> No central dusky spot to feathers of jugulum, and no scale-like markings on occiput or nape. *Hab.* Brazil and New Granada.

**Chamæpelia passerina**, SWAINSON.**GROUND DOVE.**

*Columba passerina*, LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 285. — LATHAM, Ind. Orn. II, 1790, 611.

— WILSON, Am. Orn. IV, 1811, 15, pl. xlv. — WAGLER, Syst. Av. *Columba*, No. 88.

— AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 1834, 471; V, 1839, 558, pl. clxxxii. — IB. Birds Amer. V,

1842, 19, pl. cclxxxiii. — SUND. Ofv. 1869, 586 (*St. Bartholemy*.) *Columba* (*Goura*)

*passerina*, BONAP. Obs. Wils. 1825, No. 181. — NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 635. *Chamæpelia*

*passerina*, SWAINSON, Zool. Jour. III, 1827, 358. *Chamæpelia passerina*,

BONAP. List, 1838. — IB. Conspectus, II, 1854, 77. — GOSSE, Birds Jamaica, 1847,

311. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 606. — SCL. P. Z. S. 1859, 391 (Oaxaca); 1857,

205 (Xalapa); Ibis, I, 223 (Guatemala); P. Z. S. 1864, 178 (City of Mexico). — CAB. J.

IV, III (Cuba). — BRYANT, B. Pr. 1866 (Porto Rico). — LAW. Ann. Lyc. IX, 134

(Costa Rica), 207 (Yucatan). — MARCH, P. A. N. S. 1863, 302 (Jamaica). — COOPER,

Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 516. *Pyrgiltenas passerinus*, REICHENB. Handb. Taub. 13 (1861?),

tab. 266, f. 2875–78; tab. 256, f. 1419, 1420. *Chamæpelia granatina*, BONAP. Consp.

II, 77 (Bogota). *Chamæpelia albivitta*, BONAP. Consp. II, 77 (Carthagenæ). *Chamæpelia*

var. *pallascens*, BAIRD, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1859 (Cape St. Lucas). — COOPER

Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 517.

<sup>1</sup> *Chamæpelia griseola*, SPIN. Av. Bras. t. 75, a, f. 2. — REINH. Vid. Med. Nat. For. 1870, 56 (Brazil).

SP. CHAR. Back, rump, exposed surface of tertials, and tail above, uniform grayish-olive; neck above and occiput tinged with bluish; forehead, sides of head, and neck,



*Cenopelia pallescens*

under parts generally, and lesser upper wing-coverts, light purplish-red, tinged with dusky towards the tail. Feathers of the head, neck, and fore-breast, margined with a darker shade of the ground-color; the forehead and chin, only, nearly uniform. Feathers of the breast dusky-brown in the centre, this most conspicuous on the jugulum. Under wing-coverts, axillars, and quills, brownish-orange; the latter margined externally and tipped with dusky-brown, the tertials almost entirely of this color. Middle tail-feathers like the back; the others mostly black, the outer one edged towards the tip with white. The exposed surface of the wing

variously marked with blotches exhibiting black, steel-blue, and violet. Bill and feet yellow; the former tipped with brown. *Female* with little or none of the purplish-red. *Young* duller than the adult female, the feathers of upper parts with a narrow terminal bar of white. Length, 6.30; wing, 3.50; tail, 2.80.

HAB. South Atlantic and Gulf coasts; very rarely as far north as Washington. Southern and Lower California; whole of Middle America, to New Granada and Venezuela; West Indies.

Specimens vary considerably in the depth of the vinaceous tints, but the variation is nearly as much with the individual as with the locality. As a rule, Florida and West India skins are most deeply colored, those from Mexico (particularly from Cape St. Lucas and Orizaba) being much paler in all the tints (var. *pallescens*, Baird); but specimens from Guatemala and Costa Rica are undistinguishable from the average of the Florida series. Specimens from New Granada (labelled *C. granatina*, Bonap.), Venezuela (labelled *C. albivitta*), and the Amazons, are more like Cape St. Lucas specimens, differing from them only in slightly smaller size, the colors being the same in the minutest particulars, except that the crissum is perhaps more whitish, the dusky centres of the feathers being more concealed. These generalizations are based on fifty-six specimens in the Smithsonian Museum.

HABITS. According to Mr. Audubon, this Dove is found from the lower parts of Louisiana to Cape Hatteras, following the coast quite round Florida, but is seen very seldom to any distance in the interior. He met with none in the State of Mississippi. They were more abundant among the sea-islands of Georgia and the middle portions of the coast of East Florida than anywhere else.

This bird has also been taken at Monterey, California, by W. Hutton, and a single accidental specimen has been obtained near Washington, D. C.

Specimens were obtained near Matamoras, in Tamaulipas, by Dr. Berlandier, and subsequently by Lieutenant Couch, who generally found them in the forests or open fields at a distance from dwellings. They were observed

to fly low, and only for short distances, and to spend most of their time on the ground.

In Jamaica, according to Mr. March, the Ground Dove sometimes perches, and always roosts, on low trees; but is otherwise generally found in pairs, feeding on the ground on small grain and seeds. Several pairs may be seen feeding together, but they do not associate. It is said to be very tame, and to be found about homesteads and in streets and roads. It also breeds in low trees, the cashew and the dogwood seeming to be preferred. It is very rarely kept as a cage-bird, as its note is a plaintive mournful coo, and there is a Creole superstition that misfortune will happen to any one so treating it. The nest is slightly made of twigs, lined with grass, and built in a fork or hollow. The eggs are two, of a rounded oval, white, .87 of an inch by .69.

According to Mr. Salvin, this Dove is one of the most familiar birds of the central region of Guatemala, where it is the only small Ground Dove found. In the coast region its place was supplied by at least two other species. It is abundant at Dueñas, residing all the year, and breeding in the cochineal plantations, where it deposits its eggs, two in number, on the ground under the rows of "nopal." It is called *Tortolita* by the inhabitants. He found its nests both on the ground and elevated a few feet above it.

Mr. Dresser found these birds common near Matamoras, and generally noticed them on the road between Matamoras and Brownsville, as well as on a sand-plain close to Fort Brown, on the Texan side of the river. In the interior of Texas he did not meet with any, except once, in April, on the Medina near San Antonio.

Mr. Audubon describes the flight of this Dove as low, easy, and accompanied by a whistling sound, produced by the action of the wings when the bird is surprised and forced to fly. It is less protracted than that of most other species, and seldom extends more than a hundred yards at a time. It seems much attached to its chosen locality, and almost immediately returns to it after having been driven away. While it alights on trees and moves with ease among the branches, and mostly nests in low trees or bushes, the ground is its usual place of resort, where it runs with facility, and in moving always keeps its tail considerably elevated. It appeared to be fond of alighting on fences, where it can be heard cooing for half an hour at a time.

These Pigeons are met with in groups of four or five, and seldom more than ten or twelve are seen together. They appear to prefer the thinly grassed sandy portions of cotton-fields, pea-patches, and similar places. In East Florida they may even be seen in the villages, resorting to the orange-groves and breeding in them. At St. Augustine they are often found within the inner court of the old Spanish fort, rising almost perpendicularly in order to escape above the parapets. They are easily caught, and readily become domesticated. A pair taken when their young were quite small, and placed in an aviary, con-



tinued to nourish them until full-grown, and afterwards raised a second brood from the same nest. They were fed on rice and other small grain.

The nest of this species is described as compact, and as large for the size of the bird. It is composed of dry twigs externally, and within is made of dry grasses disposed in a circular form. This is usually built in hedges or low bushes, and among the branches of orange-trees. The eggs are two, pure white, and with one end usually much more obtuse than the other. They are two in number, but, as Mr. Audubon states, occasionally the nest contains three. Two broods are raised in a season.

In the vicinity of Charleston these birds were observed to remain all the year, though the greater proportion retired south or to the sea-islands.

In the Florida Keys Mr. Audubon met with them among the islands resorted to by the Zenaida Doves, and also on Sandy Island, near Cape Sable. In the latter place they were so gentle that he approached to within two yards of them. Their nest was on the top of a cactus, not more than two feet from the ground.

Their food, in a wild state, consists of grass-seeds and various small berries, with which they swallow a large proportion of gravel to assist digestion. They are extremely fond of dusting themselves in the sand, lying down in it in the manner of various gallinaceous birds.

The eggs of this species are of a uniform bright white color, are slightly more pointed at one end than at the other, and measure .85 of an inch in length by .63 in breadth.

This species was found in abundance at Cape St. Lucas by Mr. Xantus. They were nesting from April 15 until August 29, and evidently had two or more broods in a season. Their nests were usually placed in low cactuses, near the ground, or in small shrubs. Their nests, eggs, and general habits, so far as we can gather them from the meagre notes of Mr. Xantus, are in no wise different from those of the more eastern birds.

#### GENUS **OREOPELEIA**, REICHENBACH.

*Oreopeleia*, REICHENBACH, Handbuch der speciellen Ornithol. I, 1, 1851, page xxiv. (Type, *Columba martinica*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill lengthened, slender; culmen half the rest of the head from the frontal feathers. Feet large, stout; tarsi longer than the middle toe and claw, covered anteriorly by transverse scutellæ. Inner lateral claw longer than outer; reaching beyond the base of the middle one, the outer falling short of it. Hind toe and claw more than half the middle. Quills and tail-feathers very broad; the wings rounded; second and third quills longest, the first intermediate between the fourth and fifth. Tail suborbicular, the shafts convex outwardly; the feathers rounded, and a little graduated.

Of this genus, which is peculiar to America, two well-marked species may be distinguished.

**O. martinica.** Above chestnut-rufous, the crown and nape with purplish-green, the lower part of nape with golden-green, the back with violet, the other upper parts with bright purplish-red reflections; beneath pinkish-white, more purplish on the jugulum. A distinctly marked light stripe on the cheek, bordered below by one of purplish-red. Length, 10.70; wing, 6.20; tail, 5.75. *Hab.* Key West, Florida (?) Cuba, and Martinique.

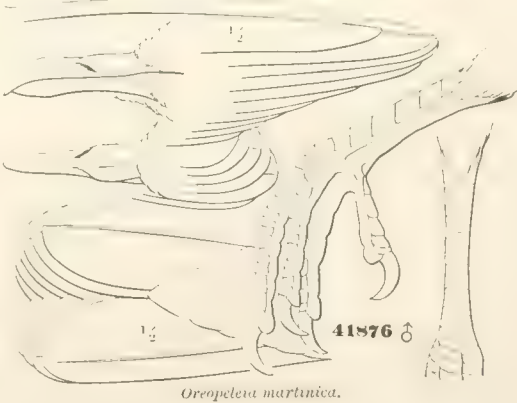
**O. montana.**<sup>1</sup> Above deep orange-rufous, without bright reflections, but with an opaque gloss of reddish-purple on the back and nape. Beneath ochraceous, inclining to vinaceous on the jugulum. Checks without distinct whitish bar bordered below by reddish. Wing, 5.70. *Hab.* Atlantic region of Middle America from Xalapa to Brazil; West Indies.

## Oreopeleia martinica, REICH.

### KEY WEST PIGEON.

*Columba martinica*, Gmelin, I, 1788, 781 (not of Temminck). *Geotrygon martinica*, Bonap. *Conspl. Av.* II, 1854, 71. — *Cab. Jour.* IV, 1856, 108. *Oreopeleia martinica*, Reich. *Syst. Av.* 1851, page xxy. — *Ib.* "Icones Avium, tab. 257, fig. 1431." *Columba martinica*, Aud. *Orn. Biog.* II, 1834, 382, pl. clxvii. — *Ib.* *Syn.* 1839, 191. — *Ib.* *Birds Am.* V, 1842, 14, pl. cclxxxii. — Nuttall, *Man.* I, (2d ed.,) 1840, 756 (not of Linnæus). *Zenaidura montana*, Bonap. *Geog. & Comp. List*, 1838. — "*Columbigallina montana*, Temminck." — "*Columba mystacea*, Linnæus," Bonap. (not of Temminck). *Oreopeleia martinica*, Baird, *Birds N. Am.* 1858, 607. — *Cab. J.* IV, 109 (Cuba). — Gundl. *Rept. Cub.* I, 1866, 299 (Cuba). — Reich. *Handb. Taub.* 31, tab. 257, fig. 1432.

**SP. CHAR.** Ground-color of the upper parts, including wing (both surfaces), and tail-feathers, chestnut-rufous; the upper part of head and neck with metallic reflections of green and purple; the back, rump, and wing-coverts, with reflections of metallic light-purplish or violet. There is a white band from the lower mandible along side of the head, bordered below by purplish-red, like the forehead, and a similar band through the eyes, which are without metallic lustre. The breast is very light purplish-red, fading to white towards the tail and chin. The feathers of the under tail-coverts are dusky-brown at the base. Length, 10.70; wing, 6.00; tail, 5.75.



**HAB.** Key West, Florida; Cuba and Martinique, perhaps elsewhere in the West Indies.

**HABITS.** The Key West Pigeon is found within the fauna of the United States only in the extreme southern portion of Florida, and, so far as known, only on the island of Key West, where Mr. Audubon met with them, and enjoyed a limited opportunity of observing their habits. He describes the

<sup>1</sup> *Oreopeleia montana*, *Columba montana*, Linn. S. N. 1758.

flight as low, swift, and protracted, as he saw them passing from Cuba to Key West. They moved in loose flocks of from five or six to a dozen, and



*Columba macroura.*

so very low as to almost seem to touch the surface. They were fond of going out early in the morning from their thickets to cleanse their plumage in the shelly sand, but on the least approach of danger would fly back to the thickest part of the woods, throw themselves on the ground, and run off with great rapidity. Their movements of the tail and neck are similar to those of the Carolina Dove. Their coo is said to be neither so soft nor

so prolonged as that of the common Dove, and may be represented by the syllable *whoc-whoc-oh-oh-oh*. When suddenly approached, they utter a guttural gasping sound. They are said to alight on the lower branches of shrubby trees, and to delight in the neighborhood of shady ponds, always inhabiting by preference the darkest solitudes. Whatever may have been their abundance on Key West, in Mr. Audubon's time, it is certain that they are very rare there now, as I am not aware of their having been taken of late years by any of the numerous collectors who have visited South Florida since Mr. Audubon's time.

The nest is described as formed of light dry twigs, in shape much resembling that of the Carolina Dove. Occasionally it is placed on the ground, and is then less elaborate. Some are placed on large branches near the ground, while others are built among slender twigs.

Towards the middle of July, according to Mr. Audubon, they become so abundant that sportsmen are able to shoot a score or more in a day. They feed on berries and the seeds of various plants, and are especially fond of the fruit of the sea-grape.

#### GENUS **STARNÆNAS**, BONAPARTE.

*Starnænas*, BONAPARTE, Geog. & Comp. List, 1835. (Type, *Columba catantropus*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill short; culmen about one third the rest of head, measured from the frontal feathers. Legs very stout and large; tarsus bare on the entire tibial joint, and covered with hexagonal scales, largest anteriorly, longer than the middle toe and claw. Inner lateral claw the larger, reaching the base of the middle claw; all the claws short, thick, and blunt. Hind toe and claw short; half the middle. Wings short, broad, and concave; much rounded. Tail short, broad, nearly even, but slightly vaulted.

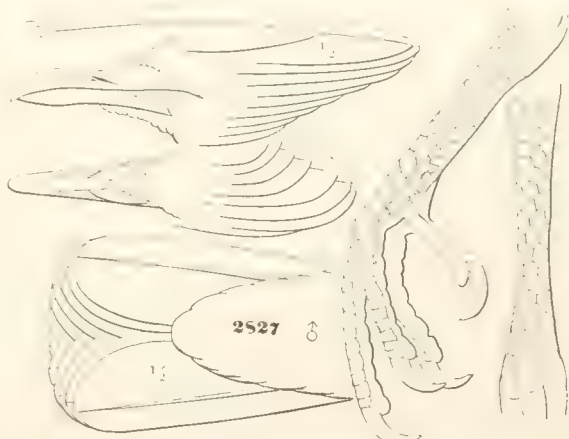
The single species of Dove composing the genus in many respects resembles the Partridges or Quails, both in external appearance and in manners.

***Starnœnas cyanocephala*, BON.****BLUE-HEADED PIGEON.**

*Columba cyanocephala*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 282. — GMELIN, Syst. I, 1788, 778. — WAGLER, Syst. Avium, 1827, *Columba*, No. 112. — AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 1834, 441; V. 1839, 557, pl. clxxii. *Starnœnas cyanocephala*, BONAP. List, 1838. — IB. Consp. II, 1854, 69. — AUD. SYN. 1839, 193. — IB. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 23, pl. cclxxxiv. GUNDLACH, Cab. Journ. IV, 1856, 108. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 608. — CAB. J. IV, 108 (Cuba). — GUNDL. Repert. Cub. I, 1866, 299. — REICHENB. Handb. Taub. 30, tab. 257, f. 1431; 266, f. 2879-81. *Starnœnas cyanocephala*, REICHENBACH, Systema Av. 1851, p. xxv, pl. xxiii. — IB. Icones Av. tab. 260 and 266. *Geophilus? cyanocephala*, SELBY, Pigeons, Jard. Nat. Lib. V, 216, pl. xxvii. *Columba (Lophyrus) cyanocephala*, NUTTALL, Man. I, (2d. ed.), 1840, 769. *Columba tetraoides*, (SCOPOLI) GMELIN, I, 772. *Blue-headed Turtle*, LATHAM, Syn. II, II, 651.

SP. CHAR. Bill blue, the fleshy part at the base carmine. Iris brown, scales of feet carmine, the interspaces white. Above and on sides glossy dark chocolate-olivaceous; beneath brownish-red, lighter centrally. Chin and throat black, with a narrow border of white below. A white line begins in the chin, and passes under the eye to the occiput. Sides of head above this and forehead black; crown blue. Length, 10.70; wing, 5.40; tail, 4.35.

HAB. West India Islands; according to Audubon found occasionally at Key West, Florida, and other southern keys.

*Starnœnas cyanocephala.*

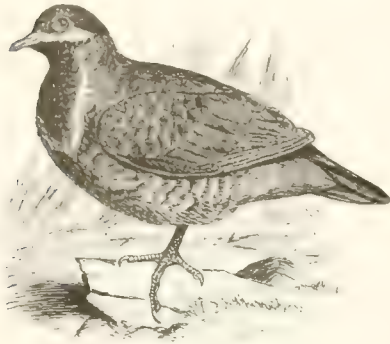
The axillars and under surface of the wings are like the belly. The crissum is most like the back. The outer tail-feathers have a bluish tinge above.

The hind toe in this species is not strictly in the same plane with the others, but placed a little above their point of insertion.

HABITS. This handsome Pigeon belongs to the fauna of the West India Islands, and is only an occasional visitant of Key West and other southern keys of Florida. They are a common species in Cuba, from which island a few are stated by Mr. Audubon to migrate each year to certain of the keys of Florida, where, however, they are rarely seen on account of their living only in the most tangled thickets. Mr. Audubon saw a pair on the western side of Key West. They were near the water picking gravel, but they would not suffer a near approach. He saw a pair, also, that had been taken, when young, on "Mule Keys." These fed well on cracked corn and rice, but he was unable to obtain any further information in respect to them.



Though abundant in Cuba this species does not appear to have been found in Jamaica, except as an imported bird from the former island, contrary to



*Sturnus oenops*.

the assertions of various writers, as Temminck, Brisson, and others. Mr. Gosse was not able to trace its presence, though its existence among the precipitous woods on the north side of that island he regards as quite possible.

Like *Oreopelia martinica* and *Zenaidura macroura*, this species, though described by Audubon as not being rare on the keys of South Florida, has not been met with in that State by later explorers.

An egg of this species laid in confinement in the aviary of Dr. Bachman, in Charleston, S. C., is of a rounded-oval shape, and of a uniform creamy-white color; it measures 1.43 inches in length by 1.10 in breadth.

## FAMILY CRACIDÆ. — THE CURASSOWS.

**CHAR.** Body large, but rather slender; bill more or less arched; tail lengthened; legs long, robust, without any spur. Toes moderate, slender, the hinder scarcely elevated. Naked spaces frequently occurring on the head and throat.

Messrs. Selater and Salvin, in their masterly and model monograph of *Cracidæ* (Pr. Zool. Soc. 1870, 504), define the subfamilies as follows:—

- A.** Post-acetabular area narrow; upper mandible higher than broad; culmen compressed . . . . . I. *Cracinæ*.  
**B.** Post-acetabular area broad; upper mandible broader than high; culmen depressed.  
 Top of head covered with feathers; space between the nostrils naked;  
 nostrils exposed . . . . . II. *Penelopinæ*.  
 Top of head with a bony tubercle; internasal space densely feathered;  
 nostrils concealed . . . . . III. *Oreophasinæ*.

By the term “post-acetabular area” is understood that portion of the dorsal aspect of the pelvis which is bounded in front by a line drawn through the acetabula.

The *Cracinæ*, or Curassows, are found in Mexico, in Central and in South America; the *Oreophasinæ* are represented by a single species, *Oreophasis derbianus*, a bird nearly as large as a Turkey, occurring in the wooded region of the Volcan de Fuego, Guatemala, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. Of the *Penelopinæ* one species only is found in the United States.

## SUBFAMILY PENELOPINÆ.

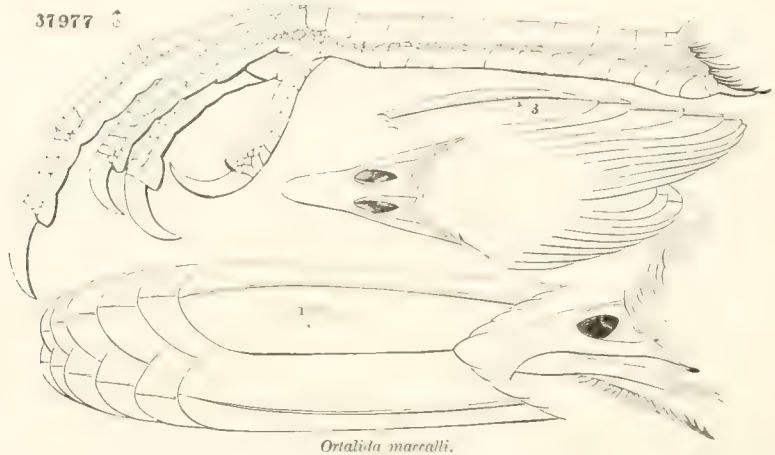
This is the most extensive section of *Cracidæ*, embracing, according to Selater and Salvin, no less than thirty-nine species. The genera indicated are as follows:—

- A.** A central fold of skin on the throat.  
 Outer quills narrow, but entire.  
 Throat feathered . . . . . 1. *Stegnotæma*.  
 Throat naked.  
 Sexes similar . . . . . 2. *Penelope*.  
 Sexes different . . . . . 3. *Penelopina*.  
 Outer quills emarginated.  
 Gular fold short . . . . . 4. *Pipile*.  
 Gular fold lengthened; linear . . . . . 5. *Aburria*.  
**B.** No central gular fold.  
 Throat feathered; outer quills emarginated . . . . . 6. *Chamæpetes*.  
 Throat naked; with a central line of bristly feathers; outer quills entire.  
 7. *Ortalida*.

GENUS **ORTALIDA**, MERREM.

*Ortalida*, MERREM, AV. IND. LOMES ET DESC. II, 1786, 40 (GRAY). (Type, *Plusioaans motmot*, L.)

Of *Ortalida*, as characterized above, Messrs. Scater and Salvin enumerate eighteen species; like the rest of the family, all American. Of these only



one has so far been detected within our limits, although it is by no means improbable that the *O. poliocephala*, Wagler (Scater and Salvin, Pr. Zööl. Soc. 1870, 537), may yet be detected in New Mexico or Arizona.<sup>1</sup>

**Ortalida vetula**, var. **maccalli**, BAIRD.**THE TEXAS CHACALACCA.**

*Ortalida vetula*, LAWRENCE, ANN. N. Y. LYC. V, 1851, 116. (Not *Penelope vetula*, WAGLER, Isis, 1830, 1112, and 1831, 517.)—SCL. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1870, 538. (Considers it the same as *P. vetula*, WAGLER). *Ortalida poliocephala*, CASSIN, ILLUST. I, IX, 1855, 267, pl. xlv. (Not *Penelope poliocephala*, WAGLER, Isis, 1830, 1112.) *Ortalida maccalli*, BAIRD, BIRDS N. AM. 1858, 611.—IB. M. BOUND. II, BIRDS, 22.—DRESSER, IBIS, 1866, 24 (S. E. Texas, breeding).—LAWR. ANN. N. Y. IX, 209 (Yucatan).—SCL. & SALV. P. Z. S. 1870, 538 (Honduras, Vera Cruz, Guatemala).—REICHENB. Handb. der sp. Orn. Lief. VIII, 145. (Describes more adult specimens.)

**SP. CHAR.** Body above dark greenish-olive; beneath brownish-yellow, tinged with olive. Head and upper part of neck plumbeous. Tail-feathers lustrous green, all tipped

<sup>1</sup> Messrs. Scater and Salvin distinguish the allied species as follows:

*O. poliocephala*, Wagler. Brownish-olive; the head plumbeous, lighter beneath; the feathers of the throat darker, and marked with gray; middle of belly milky-white; the flanks and crissum tinged with rufous; tail bronzed-green, the five lateral feathers broadly tipped with buff. Length, 24.00; wing, 10.50; tail, 11.50; tarsus, 3.20. *Hab.* Table-land of Mexico to west coast (Manzanillo, etc.).

*O. vetula*, Wagler. Brownish-olive; the head plumbeous, lighter beneath; the middle of

with white, except the middle one. Feathers along the middle of the throat black; outer edge of primaries tinged with gray. Eyes brown. Bill and feet lead-colored. Length, 23.50; wing, 8.50; tail, 11.00.

HAB. Valley of the Rio Grande, and southward to Guatemala.

This form is distinguishable from *O. vetula*, as restricted, of which it is the northern representative, by the paler and less fulvous colors, and lighter — often nearly white — tips to the tail-feathers, besides other minor differences in coloration. The two cannot be separated specifically, however, since they undoubtedly grade into each other.

HABITS. This very remarkable bird, belonging as it does to a form peculiar to this continent, is the only species found within the limits of the United States, and only within a quite restricted area in the valley of the Rio Grande. Numerous species of this family are found in the warmer countries of America, especially Mexico and Central America, all or nearly all of which appear to be capable of domestication, and some of which, including the present species, have, in repeated instances, been quite as completely domesticated as our common Turkey.



*Otatula macalli.*

Birds of the family to which the Texan species belongs differ in a very marked manner, in habits, from most *Gallinaceæ*, inasmuch as they not only live almost exclusively in deep forests, but are also remarkable for habitually frequenting trees, feeding upon their foliage, and building their nests within their branches, more in the manner of the smaller birds. They are all said to have loud and discordant voices, and are generally of a black or dark plumage.

Specimens of this bird were taken at Boquillo, in New Leon, in the spring of 1853, by Lieutenant Couch, who speaks of them as gregarious and as seeking their food wholly or in part on trees. According to Mr. Clark, they do not occur higher up the Rio Grande than the vicinity of Ringgold Barracks, inhabiting the deepest chaparrals, which they never quit. They

the belly tinged with ochraceous or rusty; tail, bronzed green; the five lateral feathers tipped with white or buff. Length, 21.00; wing, 7.70; tail, 9.00; tarsus, 2.50. HAB. Texas to Honduras, on east side of Mexico.

A near ally to *O. vetula* is the *O. leucogaster*, Gould (S. & S. p. 539) from Pacific coast of Central America. This differs in pure white of under parts. The size also is considerably less.



are inactive, and for the most of the time sit about in flocks in these thickets, feeding on leaves. The Mexican name of *Chacalacca* is supposed to be derived from the noise with which at times they make the valleys ring, and which may be well imitated in kind, but not in strength, by putting the most stress upon the last two syllables. No sooner does one take up the song than others chime in from all quarters, till, apparently exhausted, the noise gradually dies off into an interlude, only to be again renewed. These concerts take place in the morning and evening. The birds are quite gentle, are easily tamed, and are said to cross with the common domestic fowl.

Mr. Dresser states that the *Chacalacca* is very common near Matamoras and Brownsville, and that in the autumn great numbers are exposed for sale in the market of the latter place. The Mexicans are said to hold it in high esteem for its fighting qualities, and often keep it in a domesticated state and cross it with the common fowl, making use of the hybrid for cock-fighting. Mr. Dresser was so informed by many Mexicans, upon whose word he placed reliance, and was an eyewitness of a fight in which one of these hybrids was engaged. Mr. Dresser had a tame one, when at Matamoras, that became so familiar that he could hardly keep it out of his room. This bird would occasionally go away for a day or two, and pay a visit to the poultry belonging to a neighbor; whenever he missed it, he had only to go to a poultry-yard near the house, where it could generally be found.

This species was first taken within the United States by Colonel McCall, who obtained it in Texas, and who enjoyed and improved unusually good opportunities to observe the habits and manners of this bird. From his notes, quoted by Mr. Cassin, we give the following:—

“This very gallant-looking and spirited bird I saw for the first time within our territory in the extensive forests of chaparral which envelop the Resaca de la Palma. Here, and for miles along the Lower Rio Grande, it was abundant; and throughout this region the remarkable and sonorous cry of the male bird could not fail to attract and fix the attention of the most obtuse or listless wanderer who might chance to approach its abode. By the Mexicans it is called *Chiac-chia-lacca*, an Indian name, without doubt derived from the peculiar cry of the bird, which strikingly resembles a repetition of these syllables. And when I assure you that its voice, in compass, is equal to that of the Guinea-fowl, and in harshness but little inferior, you may form some idea of the chorus with which the forest is made to ring at the hour of sunrise. At that hour, in the month of April, I have observed a proud and stately fellow descend from the tree on which he had roosted, and, mounting upon an old log or stump, commence his clear, shrill cry. This was soon responded to in a lower tone by the female, the latter always taking up the strain as soon as the importunate call of her mate had ceased. Thus alternating, one pair after another would join in the matutinal chorus, and, before the rising sun had lighted up their close retreat, the woods would ring with the din of a hundred voices, as the happy

couples met after the period of separation and repose. When at length all this clatter had terminated, the parties quietly betook themselves to their morning meal. If surprised while thus employed, they would fly into the trees above, and, peering down with stretched necks, and heads turned sideways to the ground, they would challenge the intruder with a singular and oft-repeated croaking note, of which it would be difficult to give any adequate idea with words alone."

Colonel McCall adds that the volubility and singularity of its voice is its most striking and remarkable trait. While on his march from Matamoras to Tampico he had encamped, on the 30th of December, at the spring of Encinal, whence, a short time before sunset, he rode out in search of game. Passing through a woodland near the stream, his ears were saluted with a strange sound that resembled somewhat the cry of the panther (*Felis onca*). He was at a loss to what animal to ascribe it, and, dismounting, crawled cautiously through the thicket for some distance, until he came upon an opening where there were some larger trees, from the lower branches of one of which he ascertained that the sound proceeded. There he discovered a large male bird of this species, ascending towards the top of the tree, and uttering this hitherto unheard sound, as he sprang from branch to branch in mounting to his roost. In a few moments his call was answered from a distance, and soon after he was joined by a bird of the year. Others followed, coming in from different quarters, and there were in a little while five or six upon the tree. One of these discovered the intruder and gave the alarm. The singular cry of the old bird ceased, and they all began to exhibit uneasiness and a disposition to fly, whereupon Colonel McCall shot the old bird.

Colonel McCall also states that the eye is a remarkable feature in the living birds of this species, being full of courage and animation, equal, in fact, in brilliancy to that of the finest gamecock. He frequently noticed this bird domesticated by the Mexicans at Matamoras, Monterey, etc., and going at large about their gardens. He was assured that in that condition it not unfrequently crossed with the common fowl.

In the wild state the eggs are said to be from six to eight, never exceeding the last number. They are white, without spots, and rather smaller than a pullet's egg. The nest is usually on the ground, at the root of a large tree or at the side of an old log, where a hole several inches deep is scratched in the ground; this is lined with leaves, and the eggs are always carefully covered with the same when the female leaves them for the purpose of feeding. If disturbed while on her nest, she flies at the intruder with great spirit and determination.

Eggs of this species, from Matamoras, are of an oblong-oval shape, equally pointed at either end, and measure 2.35 inches in length by 1.65 in breadth. They are of a dirty-white color with a light tint of buff, and have a slightly roughened or granulated surface.

FAMILY **MELEAGRIDÆ**. — THE TURKEYS.

CHAR. Bill moderate; the nasal fossæ bare. Head and neck without feathers, but with scattered hairs, and more or less carunculated. An extensible fleshy process on the forehead, but no development of the bone. Tarsus armed with spurs in the male. Hind toe elevated. Tail nearly as long as the wing, truncate, of more than twelve feathers.

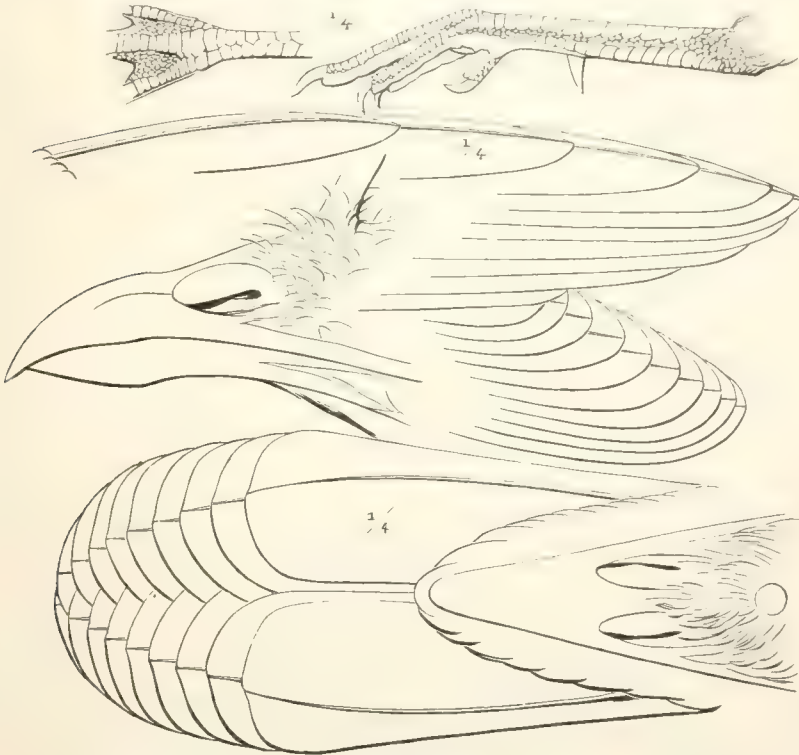
The family *Meleagridæ*, or Turkeys, as at present known, is entirely confined to North and Middle America, and represented only by the genus *Meleagris*. It forms, in combination with the Guinea-fowls (*Numididæ*), the Pheasants and common fowls (*Phasianidæ*), and the Grouse and Partridges (*Tetraonidæ*), a peculiar group, to which the name *Alecteropodes* has been given by Professor Huxley; this group is well distinguished from the *Cracidæ* and the *Megapodidæ* (which form together an opposed group, called *Peristeropodes*), in addition to the characters enumerated under the family names, by salient characters developed in the sternum. In the present family and its relations, as all may recall from experience at the dinner-table, the sternum, or breast-bone, is divided into a long narrow keel (Iphosteon) extending far backwards; while towards the front, from each side, and separated by a very deep notch from the median portion, a wing (pleurosteon) originates obliquely, and, soon splitting in two, extends also far backwards; in front, two processes (called costal) project well forwards. In the *Cracidæ* and *Megapodidæ*, on the contrary, the sternum is not so split, the keel and wing, as above, being more continuous and the notch comparatively shallow; the costal processes are also comparatively small and obtuse.

Externally the Turkeys have considerable resemblance to the Guinea-fowls (*Numididæ*), but they differ from them in having a backward process of the second metacarpal bone, and in the form of the costal processes of the sternum and of the acromial process of the scapular; while they are distinguished from the Guinea-fowls and all others by the form of the pelvis (the post-acetabular area is greater than the pre-acetabular, and is also longer than broad), and by the furcula (wish-bone), which is very weak and straight, with its point (hypocleidium) straight and rod-like. To Professor Huxley we are indebted for having first pointed out most of these characters.

Although the number of known species of *Meleagridæ* as we understand them, is limited to two now living, the family was apparently well represented in former geological periods, no less than three having been already described from more or less perfect remains; of these, two have been found in the post-pleiocene of New Jersey, one of which (*Meleagris altus*, Marsh, or *M. superbus*, Cope) was taller than the common Turkey, while the other (*Meleagris celer*, Marsh) was much smaller. The third species (*Meleagris antiquus*, Marsh) lived at a still earlier date, its remains having been obtained in the miocene beds of Colorado.

GENUS **MELEAGRIS**, LINNÆUS.*Meleagris*, LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat. 1735. (Type, *Meleagris gallopavo*, LINN.)

GEN. CHAR. Legs with transverse scutellæ before and behind; reticulated laterally. Tarsi with spurs. Tail rounded, rather long, usually of eighteen feathers. Forehead

*Meleagris gallopavo.*

with a depending fleshy cone. Head and the upper half of the neck without feathers. Breast of male in most species with a long tuft of bristles.

**Species and Varieties.**

**M. gallopavo.** Head livid blue, legs red, general color copper-bronze, with copper and green reflections, each feather with a velvet-black margin; all the quills brown, closely barred with white. Tail-feathers chestnut, narrowly barred with black; the tip with a very broad, subterminal black bar.

Tail-coverts dark purplish-chestnut throughout, with the tips not lighter.

Tip of tail-feathers scarcely paler chestnut than the ground-color. *Hab.*

Eastern Province of United States . . . . . var. *gallopavo*.

Tail-coverts chestnut, the tips much paler, sometimes almost white. Tip of tail-feathers light brownish-yellow or white; sometimes with the coverts broadly whitish. *Hab.* Southern portion of Western Province of United

States, from Texas to Arizona. Table-lands of Mexico, south to Orizaba, Mirador, etc. . . . .

. . . . . var. *mexicanus*.



The *M. ocellatus*<sup>1</sup> of Honduras and Yucatan is a very distinct species, and one which vies with the *Phasianidae* of Asia in the brilliancy of its coloring. It is very rare in collections, and has a very restricted distribution.

### **Meleagris gallopavo, var. gallopavo, LINN.**

#### **WILD TURKEY.**

*Meleagris gallopavo*, LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat. I, 1758, 156. — GMELIN, I, 1788, 732. — LATHAM, Ind. Orn. II, 1790, 618. — STEPHENS, in Shaw's Zool. XI, 1, 1819, 156 (domestic bird). — BONAP. Am. Orn. I, 1825, 79, pl. ix. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 1831, I and 33; V, 1839, 559, pl. i. — IB. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 42, pl. cclxxxvii, cclxxxviii. — NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 630. — REICHENBACH, Synonym. Av. 1851, pl. xxvi. — IB. Icones Av. tab. 289. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 615. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1866, 25 (Southeastern Texas, breeds). — MAX. Cab. J. VI, 1858, 426. *Meleagris americana*, BARTRAM, Travels, 1791, 290. *Meleagris sylvestris*, VIEILL. Nouv. Dict. IX, 447. *Gallopavo sylvestris*, LECONTE, Pr. A. N. Sc. Phil. 1857, 179. *Meleagris fera*, VIEILLOT, Galerie Ois. II, 1824, 10, pl. x. — GRAY, Cat. Gall. V, 42, 1867. — *Wild Turkey*, CLAYTON, Philos. Trans. XVII, 1693, 992. — PENNANT, Philos. Trans. LXXI, 1781, 67. — IB. Arctic Zool. No. 178. *American Turkey*, LATHAM, Syn. II, II, 676. *Gallopavo sylvestris*, *Novæ Angliæ*, RAY, Syn. 51. *Gallopavo sylvestris*, CATESBY, Carol. I, 1730, App. p. xlv. — BRISSON, Orn. V, 1760, 162.

SP. CHAR. The naked skin of the head and neck is blue; the excrescences purplish-red. The legs are red. The feathers of the neck and body generally are very broad, abruptly truncate, and each one well defined and scale-like; the exposed portion coppery-



*Meleagris gallopavo.*

bronze, with a bright coppery reflection in some lights, in the specimens before us chiefly on the under parts. Each feather is abruptly margined with velvet-black, the bronze assuming a greenish or purplish shade near the line of junction, and the bronze itself sometimes with a greenish reflection in some lights. The black is opaque, except along

<sup>1</sup> *Meleagris ocellatus*, TEMM., CABOT, Pr. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. I, 73.

the extreme tip, where there is a metallic gloss. The feathers of the lower back and rump are black, with little or no copper gloss. The feathers of the sides behind, and the coverts, upper and under, are of a very dark purplish-chestnut, with purplish-metallic reflections near the end, and a subterminal bar of black; the tips are of the opaque purplish-chestnut referred to. The concealed portion of the coverts is dark chestnut barred rather finely with black; the black wider than the interspaces. The tail-feathers are dark brownish-chestnut, with numerous transverse bars of black, which, when most distinct, are about a quarter of an inch wide and about double their interspaces; the extreme tip for about half an inch is plain chestnut, lighter than the ground-color; and there is a broad subterminal bar of black about two inches wide on the outer feathers, and narrowing to about three quarters of an inch to the central ones. The innermost pair scarcely shows this band, and the others are all much broken and confused. In addition to the black bars on each feather, the chestnut interspaces are sprinkled with black. The black bands are all most distinct on the inner webs; the interspaces are considerably lighter below than above.

There are no whitish tips whatever to the tail or its coverts. The feathers on the middle of the belly are downy, opaque, and tipped obscurely with rusty whitish.

The wing-coverts are like the back; the quills, however, are blackish-brown, with numerous transverse bars of white, half the width of the interspaces. The exposed surfaces of the wing, however, and most of the inner secondaries, are tinged with brownish-rusty, the uppermost ones with a dull copper or greenish gloss.

The female differs in smaller size, less brilliant colors, absence generally of bristles on the breast and of spur, and a much smaller fleshy process above the base of the bill.

*Male.* Length, 48.00 to 50.00; extent, 60.00; wing, 21.00; tail, 18.50. Weight, 16 to 35 lbs. *Female.* Weight about 12 lbs.; measurements smaller in proportion.

*HAB.* Eastern Province of the United States, and Canada. West along the timbered river-valleys towards the Rocky Mountains; south to the Gulf coast.

There is some question as to the names to be applied to the two races of Northern *Meleagris*, and especially as to which is entitled to bear the name of *gallopavo*. The original description of *M. gallopavo* quotes the New England Turkey as described by Ray, but as far as the characters given go refers rather to the domestic form, which is equivalent to *M. mexicana* of Gould. In this state of the case we therefore think it as well to use *gallopavo* for the eastern race, although the arguments of Major Leconte and others in favor of applying it to the wild Mexican, and its derivative the domestic variety, are not without much weight.

*HABITS.* The Wild Turkey is found throughout eastern North America, from South Carolina northward, and from the Atlantic to Texas and Arkansas. It has probably become an extinct species in New England, though within a few years individuals have been shot in Montague, Mass., and in other towns in Franklin County. The construction of railroads, however, and the settlement of the country, have probably led to their final extermination; at least, I have known of none being taken within the limits of Massachusetts for several years.

In the unsettled portions of the Southern and Western States, and in the country watered by the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers and their affluents, these birds are comparatively plentiful, though the question of their

final extinction is probably only one of time, and that not very distant. In Audubon's day they were to be found along the whole line of the Alleghanies, where they still occur, but have become very wary and to be approached only with the greatest difficulty. In Louisiana and in Kentucky, Audubon found them most abundant, and in these States he enjoyed the most favorable opportunities for observing their very remarkable habits in regions then comparatively undisturbed by the intrusion of civilized man. They are said to be not uncommon in Virginia, and are not unfrequently met with even in the vicinity of Washington.

Dr. Woodhouse found this species abundant throughout the wooded portions of the Indian Territory and Texas. While in the Creek country his party killed numbers of them daily. Many of them were very large, and weighed upwards of nineteen pounds each, although at that time they were in poor condition. They were quite abundant along the Rio San Pedro in Texas.

Mr. Dresser found the Wild Turkey common in all the portions of Texas and Mexico that he visited, and particularly so on the rivers between San Antonio and the Rio Grande. His first Turkey hunt was on the Upper Medina River, about forty miles from San Antonio. It proved to be wary and difficult to approach in the daytime; but by watching to see where they roosted, and visiting them by moonlight, one or two could generally be secured. They generally preferred roosting in high cottonwood-trees, on the banks of a stream, perching as high up as possible. He once saw eleven Turkeys on one large bough of a cottonwood-tree on the Medina. When the pecan-nuts are ripe the Turkeys become very fat, as they are extremely fond of these nuts, which are very oily. One very plump bird was found, after it had been dressed, to weigh sixteen pounds. Mr. Dresser was informed by the hunters, that, for a nest, the Turkeys scratch a hole in the ground, or make a sort of nest in the grass under a bush, and that the eggs resemble those of the tame Turkey, except in being smaller and more elongated in form. The Mexicans, on the Upper Rio Grande, sometimes domesticate the Wild Turkey, and at Piedras Negras Mr. Dresser saw two that had been caught when quite young and had become very tame. The female was then sitting, and the eggs, when examined, were found to agree with the account given him by the hunters.

Mr. Audubon, in his very full and minute account of their habits, speaks of them as irregularly migratory and gregarious, their migrations having reference only to the abundance of food, and the meeting together in the same localities being to a large degree caused by the same source of attraction,—the supply of mast in certain regions. In this way they desert sections where the supply is exhausted, and advance towards those where it is more plentiful.

Late in October these birds assemble in flocks in the rich bottom-lands of the Western rivers, the male birds associating in parties of from ten to a hundred, and keeping apart from the females. The latter are simultane-

ously moving into the same regions, but only in small family groups, each leading its own flock, then nearly grown. Gradually they unite with other families, forming at length parties of seventy or eighty. They are said to avoid very carefully the old males, who have the very unparental disposition to destroy the young birds even when nearly grown. These migrations are made on foot except when they are compelled to cross a stream. On their first coming to the banks of a river they are said to make a pause there of one or two days before they attempt to cross, the old males strutting about up and down the banks, making a loud gobbling, and calling to one another as if to raise their courage to a befitting point. Even the females and the young assume something of the same pompous demeanor, spreading out their tails, running round one another, and making a loud purring noise. At length, after this prolonged preparation for the passage, they all mount to the top of a high tree, and, at a signal given by their leader, take flight for the opposite shore. Occasionally some fall into the water, when these bring the wings close to the body, spread out the tail, and plying their legs with great vigor move rapidly towards the shore, where, by a violent effort, they extricate themselves from the water. After thus crossing a stream of any magnitude, they are often found in a bewildered state, and fall an easy prey to the hunter.

Where their food occurs abundantly they separate into smaller flocks, composed of birds of all ages and sexes. At times they are known to approach farmhouses, associate with the domesticated fowl, and enter the corn-cribs in quest of food, passing the fall and the winter in this manner.

Early in February the love-season is said to commence, the first demonstrations being made by the males, but for some time persistently avoided by the females. At this period the sexes roost apart. When a female utters a call-note, the male birds within hearing return the cry, uttering notes similar to those with which the domestic Turkey greets any very unusual sound. If the call-note has been uttered by a female on the ground, the males fly to the place, spreading and erecting their tails, drawing their heads back on their shoulders, depressing their wings with a quivering motion, and strutting pompously about. At the same time they emit from their lungs a succession of very peculiar puffs. On these occasions the males often encounter each other, and desperate contests ensue, which frequently have a fatal termination, caused by furious blows inflicted on the head. When one Cock-Turkey has thus destroyed its rival, it is said to caress the dead body in an apparently affectionate manner.

When the Turkeys have mated, the connection is supposed to last for that season, though a male Turkey is often known to have more than a single mate; and the hens are said also to keep apart from the males while they are laying their eggs, for the cock would inevitably destroy them. At the end of the love-season the males become emaciated, and cease to gobble. They then separate entirely from the females, and keep apart by themselves until they recover their strength, when they reunite in small flocks.



The female is said to begin to deposit her eggs about the middle of April, selecting for that purpose a place as much concealed as possible from her many enemies. The nest, always on the ground, consists of a few withered leaves in a hollow scratched out by the side of a fallen log, or the top of a prostrate tree, or under a thicket, or within the edge of a cane-brake, but always in a dry place. The eggs sometimes amount to twenty in number, though there are usually from ten to fifteen. They are described as of a dull cream-color, sprinkled with reddish dots. When the female leaves her nest, she is said to be very careful to cover them with leaves, so that it is always difficult for any one to find them. Mr. Audubon observed that Turkey-hens not unfrequently selected small islands in which to deposit their eggs, apparently on account of the great masses of drift-timber which accumulated at their heads, in which they could seek protection and shelter.

If a female is approached while sitting on her eggs, she rarely moves unless she is discovered. Mr. Audubon has frequently approached within a few paces of a nest, the female remaining undisturbed. They seldom abandon their nest when it has been discovered by man, but forsake it if any of the eggs have been destroyed by any kind of animal. If the eggs are taken or destroyed, the female prepares for another nest, but otherwise has only one brood in a season. Audubon also states that he has known several hens associate together, deposit their eggs in the same nest, and rear their broods together, having once found three hens sitting on forty-two eggs in a single nest, one female at least being always present to protect it. When the eggs are near hatching, the female will not leave her eggs under any circumstances, and will suffer herself to be made a prisoner rather than abandon them. The mother assists the young birds to extricate themselves from the egg-shell, caresses and dries them with her bill, and aids them in their first efforts to totter out of the nest. As the brood follow her, she is very watchful against Hawks or other enemies, spreads her wings a little to protect them, and calls them close to her side, keeping them on dry ground and carefully guarding them from wet, which is very injurious to them when young. When two weeks old, they begin to be able to follow their mother, at night to roost in the low limb of some tree, and to leave the woods in the daytime in quest of berries and other food. The young usually feed on various kinds of small berries and insects. The full-grown Turkeys prefer the pecan-nuts and wild grapes to any other kind of food.

They are also said to feed on grass, various kinds of plants, corn, and other grain, seeds, fruit, and also upon beetles, small lizards, tadpoles, etc. In feeding in the woods, they turn over the dry leaves with their feet, and seem instinctively to know the presence of suitable food. They not unfrequently betray their presence in the neighborhood by the bare places they thus leave behind them in the woods where they have been feeding.

After heavy falls of snow and the formation of a hard crust, the Turkeys are said to be compelled to remain several days on their roosts without food thus proving their capability of enduring a continued abstinence.

Turkeys are hunted in various ways and by different expedients to facilitate their destruction. In the spring they are attracted by drawing the air in a peculiar manner, through one of the second joint-bones of a wing. The sound thus produced resembles the voice of the female, on hearing which the male comes up and is shot. The cry of the Barred Owl is also imitated at night where Turkeys are at roost, who betray the place by their rolling gobble, uttered when alarmed. One of the most common methods of capturing Wild Turkeys is by means of a trap known as a Turkey-pen. A covered enclosure is made, constructed of trees, about four feet high and of various sizes, closed everywhere except at one end, where a small opening is left through which a small trench is dug, sloping very gradually at both ends, into and from the pen. The portion nearest the enclosure is covered. This passage-way, the interior of the pen, and the vicinity of the opening, to some distance into the forest, are strewn with corn. The Turkeys, attracted by the corn, follow it into the pen, and when they wish to leave endeavor to get out by the sides, but have not intelligence enough to escape by the opening through which they entered. In this manner they are sometimes entrapped in great numbers.

In unsettled parts of the country, Wild Turkeys are often known to associate with tame ones, sometimes to fight with them and to drive them from their food.

Mr. Audubon supposed our common tame Turkey to have originated in these birds, yet in his accounts of the habits of the latter he mentions several indications of divergence. A Wild Turkey which he had reared almost from the shell, and which had become very tame, would never roost with the domesticated birds, but always betook itself at night to the roof of the house, where it remained until dawn.

Mr. Bachman states that Wild Turkeys kept in confinement, in a condition of partial domestication, but separate from the domestic birds, lose the brilliancy of their plumage in the third generation, become of a pale brown, and have here and there an intermixture of white feathers. On the other hand, Major Leconte states, most positively, that the Wild Turkey has never been known to become so nearly domesticated as to propagate its race in confinement, notwithstanding the many efforts made to accomplish this result. This statement is, however, negative, and must be taken with reservation. In 1852, in Mr. Barnum's grounds, near Niagara Falls, I saw Wild Turkeys with broods of young birds, though how far successful this attempt proved in the sequel I do not know, and Dr. Bachman's statement seems to be quite positive evidence that they can be thus reared.

Mr. Audubon describes the eggs of the Wild Turkey as measuring 2.87 inches in length and 2.00 in breadth, and rather pointed at one end; their ground-color is given as of a uniform pale-yellowish tint, marked all over with pale rusty-brown spots.

Specimens in my collection vary from 2.55 to 2.35 inches in length, and

in breadth from 1.85 to 1.75 inches. They are of an elongate-oval shape, are pointed at one end, quite obtuse at the other. The ground is a rich dark cream-color, very generally spotted with rounded blotches of a rare umber-brown.

### **Meleagris gallopavo, var. mexicana, GOULD.**

#### **MEXICAN TURKEY.**

*Meleagris mexicana*, GOULD, Pr. Zool. Soc. 1856, 61. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 618. — COUES, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1866, 93 (Fort Whipple, Arizona). — ELLIOT, Illust. II, pl. xxxviii. — BAIRD, Rept. Agricultural Dept. for 1866 (1867) 288. — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 523. *Meleagris gallopavo*, GRAY, Cat. Gallinæ, Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 42.

SP. CHAR. Similar to var. *gallopavo*, but feathers of the rump, the tail-coverts, and tail-feathers, tipped with whitish, instead of dark rusty; gloss more greenish. ♂ (44,731, Mirador): Wing, 20.50; tail, 18.50; culmen, 1.00; tarsus, 6.50; middle toe, 3.50.

HAB. Rocky Mountains, from Western Texas to Arizona, and south along the table land of Mexico.

Wild Turkeys from the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains differ strikingly from those east of the Mississippi in the feathers of the sides of the body behind, and in the upper and under tail-coverts. These are all tipped with light brownish-yellow for about half an inch, more or less with the region, and the tail is tipped with the same. The chestnut ground of the tail and coverts is also considerably lighter. The gloss on the feathers of the rump is green, not purple. The coverts, too, lack in a measure the purple shade in the chestnut. The metallic reflections generally have rather more green than in the eastern bird.

In one specimen (♀, 10,030, from Fort Thorn) the light edgings are almost white, and so much extended as to conceal the entire rump. All the feathers of the under parts of the body are edged broadly with white, and the tail is tipped with the same for more than an inch. This specimen also has the head considerably more hairy than in the eastern skins, but the others from the same region do not differ so much in this respect from eastern ones.

Two specimens from the Llano Estacado of Texas are exactly intermediate between New Mexican skins and examples from Arkansas, the former being typical *mexicana*, and the latter slightly different from true *gallopavo*. These Texan specimens have the tips of the upper tail-coverts pale ochraceous, instead of pure white; in the Arkansas skins these tips are rufous-chestnut, instead of dark maroon-chestnut, as in typical *gallopavo* from Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Many, or indeed most, specimens of *mexicana* have the black subterminal zone of the tail with a more or less distinct metallic bronzing, which we have never seen in any specimens of *gallopavo*.

It is to this race that we are indebted for the origin of our domestic Turkey, and not to that of the eastern parts of North America.

**HABITS.** There is very little on record as to the possession of distinctive peculiarities by this race of North American Turkeys. If, as is now generally supposed, it be the original source whence the domestic fowl was derived, we are all sufficiently conversant with its performances in the barnyard, and its excellences for the table.

Specimens of its eggs collected in Arizona exhibit no noteworthy differences from the *gallopavo*.

In the accompanying foot-note we reproduce an article on the origin of the domestic Turkey, by Professor Baird, published in the Report of the Agricultural Department for 1866, which contains some points of interest, bearing on the origin of the domestic Turkey and the habits of the Mexican variety.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As with nearly all the animals which have been brought under domestication by man, the true origin of the common barnyard Turkey was for a long time a matter of uncertainty. As a well-known writer (Martin) observes: "So involved in obscurity is the early history of the Turkey, and so ignorant do the writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries appear to have been about it, that they have regarded it as a bird known to the ancients by the name of *Melcagris* (really the Guinea-fowl or Pintado), a mistake which was not cleared up till the middle of the eighteenth century. The appellation of "turkey," which this bird bears in England, arose from the supposition that it came originally from the country of that name,—an idea entirely erroneous, as it owes its origin to the New World. Mexico was first discovered by Grigalva in 1518. Oviedo speaks of the Turkey as a kind of Peacock abounding in New Spain, which had already in 1526 been transported in a domestic state to the West India Islands and the *Spanish Main*, where it was kept by the Christian colonists.

It is reported to have been introduced into England in 1541. In 1573 it had become the Christmas fare of the farmer.

Among the luxuries belonging to the high condition of civilization exhibited by the Mexican nation at the time of the Spanish conquest was the possession by Montezuma of one of the most extensive zoölogical gardens on record, numbering nearly all the animals of that country, with others brought at much expense from great distances, and it is stated that Turkeys were supplied as food in large numbers daily to the beasts of prey in the menagerie of the Mexican emperor. No idea can be formed at the present day of the date when this bird was first reclaimed in Mexico from its wild condition, although probably it had been known in a domestic state for many centuries. There can, however, be no question of the fact that it was habitually reared by the Mexicans at the time of the conquest, and introduced from Mexico or New Spain into Europe early in the sixteenth century, either directly or from the West India Islands, into which it had been previously carried.

It has, however, always been a matter of surprise that the Wild Turkey of eastern North America did not assimilate more closely to the domestic bird in color, habits, and by interbreeding, although until recently no suspicion was entertained that they might belong to different species. Such, however, now appears to be the fact, as I will endeavor to show.

The proposition I present is, that there are two species, or at least races, of Wild Turkey in North America,—one confined to the more eastern and southern United States, the other to the southern Rocky Mountains and adjacent part of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona; that the latter extends along Eastern Mexico as far south at least as Orizaba, and that it is from this Mexican species, and not from that of eastern North America, that this domestic Turkey is derived.

In the Proceedings of the Zoölogical Society of London for 1856 (page 61), Mr. Gould characterizes as new a Wild Turkey from the mines of Real del Norte, in Mexico, under the name of



*Melagris mexicana*, and is the last to suggest that it is derived from the domesticated bird, and not from the common Wild Turkey of eastern North America, on which he retains the name of *M. gallopavo*, of Linnaeus. He stated that the peculiarities of the new species consist chiefly in the creamy-white tips of the tail-feathers and of the upper tail-coverts, with some other points of minor importance. I suggest that the Wild Turkey of New Mexico, as referred to by various writers, belongs to this new species, and not to the *M. gallopavo*.

In 1858, in the Report on the birds collected by the Pacific Railroad Expedition (Vol. IX, p. 618, of the series of Pacific Railroad Reports), I referred to this subject, and established the existence in North America of two species of Wild Turkey, — one belonging to eastern, the other to middle, North America. Much additional material has since corroborated this view, and while the *M. gallopavo* is found along the Missouri River and eastward, and extends into Eastern Texas, the other is now known to belong to the Llano Estacado and other parts of Western Texas, to New Mexico, and to Arizona.

The recent acquisition of a fine male Turkey by the Smithsonian Institution from the vicinity of Mount Orizaba, in Mexico, and its comparison with a skin from Santa Fé, enables me to assert the positive identity of our Western and the Mexican species, and one readily separable from the better known wild bird of the eastern United States. There is now little reason to doubt that the true origin of the barnyard Turkey is to be sought for in the Mexican species, and not in the North American, — an hypothesis which explains the fact of the difficulty in establishing a cross between our wild and tame birds.

The presumed differences between the two species may be briefly indicated as consisting principally in the creamy or fulvous white of the tips of the tail-feathers and of the feathers overlying the base of the tail and of the hinder part of the back of the Mexican and typical barnyard birds, as compared with the decided chestnut-brown of the same parts in the eastern Wild Turkey. There are other differences, but they are less evident, and those indicated will readily serve to distinguish the two species.

The true wild bird of eastern North America always has the tips of the tail-feathers and upper tail-covert of a chestnut-brown color; the Mexican species and its descendant of the barnyard never exhibit this feature.

Sometimes this domesticated bird is exactly like its wild original, differing only in rather greater development of the fatty lobes of the head and neck; and of this an example may be seen in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

There is a variety of the domestic bird which is entirely black, sometimes even including the larger quills, which in both species are naturally banded with white, and in this there may be little or no trace of any bands at the end of the tail and of its upper coverts; but whatever may be the asseverations of the sportsman, the poultry-dealer, or the farmer, as to the "wildness" of any particular bird, or what the circumstances attendant upon its capture or death by trapping, shooting, or otherwise, implicit confidence may be placed in the test above indicated, namely: if the tips of tail and tail-covert are chestnut-brown, the specimen belongs to the *M. gallopavo* or "Wild Turkey"; if the same part is either entirely black or any shade of whitish or light fulvous, then it is a "barnyard" fowl.

The following extract from a letter written by Dr. Sartorius, the accomplished naturalist, to whom the Smithsonian Institution owes the specimen of the wild Mexican bird referred to above, will be read with interest.

"MIRADOR, STATE OF VERA CRUZ,  
January 20, 1867

"I am entirely of your opinion in regard to the origin of the domestic Turkey, as our wild bird differs from the tame only in the less amount of development of the fatty lobes of the head and neck.

"*Melagris mexicana* is tolerably abundant in this neighborhood, belonging more especially to the sparsely overgrown savannas between the region of the oaks and the coast, the Tierra Caliente or 'warm region' proper. It is a very shy bird, living in families like the wild Geese, and keeping sentinels on the watch whenever the flock is feeding in the vicinity of threatened danger. It derives its nourishment from plants and insects on the ground, and scratches with its feet to aid in the search for food. In running, the swiftest dog cannot overtake it. It is not

very fond of taking to flight, but its powers in this respect are not behind those of any of the allied forms. Its breeding-season is in March or April, when the hens separate from the males to reunite into families again in September. Their general habits during this season are much as with the domestic bird, although I cannot say whether they inflate and swell themselves out in the same manner. I am, however, inclined to doubt it, as the specimen I have handled did not have the tips of the wing-feathers worn away as in the barn-yard breed. The female lays from three to twelve brownish-red, spotted eggs in the high grain, and hatches them out in thirty days, as is the case with the tame Turkey. The flesh of the wild bird is dry, but very sweet, like the tame fowl, and like the latter is dark on the back and legs, and white on the breast and wings.

"The white meat of the flesh on the breast of the Mexican and the tame Turkey, as compared with the darker meat of the common North American wild bird, is a fact of importance to be taken into consideration.

"The exact distribution of the Mexican Wild Turkey southward and westward is not ascertained, nor is it known that it occupies the western portion of the Mexican country. In Yucatan and Northern Guatemala it is replaced by a third species, the Ocellated Turkey (*Melcagris ocellata*), rather less in size, but far more striking in appearance, being marked in the tail with spots somewhat like the 'eyes' of the tail of the Peacock. The three species thus belong to Mexico and northern parts of Central America.

"Very truly yours,

"C. SARTORIUS."

FAMILY **TETRAONIDÆ**. — THE GROUSE.

As already stated, the *Tetraonidæ* are pre-eminently characterized among gallinaceous birds by their densely feathered tarsi, and by the feathers of the nasal fossa or groove, which fill it completely, and conceal the nostrils. The toes are usually naked (feathered to the claws in the Ptarmigans), and with pectinations of scales along the edges. The tail-feathers vary from sixteen to eighteen and even twenty in number; the tail is rounded, acute, or forked. The orbital region is generally somewhat bare, with a naked stripe above the upper eyelid, beset by short fringe-like processes, while many genera have an inflatable air-sac on the side of the neck.

The following synoptical table will give a general view of the North American *Tetraonidæ*, although the arrangement is more artificial than natural. The species of *Tetrao* and *Bonasa* inhabit wooded regions; *Lagopus* belongs to the more arctic portions of the continent and the snowy ridges of the Rocky Mountains; the others are found in the great prairies of the West, *Centrocercus* being confined to the sterile plains covered with sage or wormwood.

The following synopsis is intended to aid in defining the genera, but does not profess to constitute a natural arrangement.

**Genera.**

**A.** Legs feathered to and on the basal membrane of the toes, which are bare. No ruff on the side of the neck, which, however, has an extensible bare space.

**Canace.** Tail broad, nearly even, or truncate, and rounded laterally, two thirds the wing. Nasal fossæ scarcely half the culmen.

**Centrocercus.** Tail excessively lengthened and cuneate; longer than the wings. Nasal fossæ two thirds the culmen. Shafts of feathers on the lower throat very spinous.

**Pedicecetes.** Tail very short, but graduated, and with the two middle feathers (perhaps tail-coverts) lengthened beyond the rest, and two thirds as long as the wing; the next longest half the wing. Nasal fossæ not half the length of culmen. Shafts of throat-feathers normal.

**B.** Legs feathered to the lower end of tarsus.

**Cupidonia.** Tail very short, truncate, but laterally graduated; half the wings. Sides of neck with long, pointed, or lanceolate, stiff feathers. Nasal fossæ scarcely one third the culmen.

**C.** Legs feathered to the claws.

**Lagopus.** Tail about two thirds the wing, truncate; of sixteen to eighteen feathers. Most species becoming white in winter; none of the other genera exhibiting this peculiarity.

**D.** Lower half of tarsi bare, with two rows of scutellæ anteriorly.

**Bonasa.** Sides of neck with a ruff of broad, truncate, soft feathers. Tail very broad, square, as long as the wings.

GENUS **CANACE**, REICHENBACH.

**GEN. CHAR.** Bill smooth, with no lateral groove, depressed, or broader than high. Feathers of the head and neck all normal, i.e. no crest, nor lengthened plumes of any kind. Tail lengthened (i.e. nearly equal to wing), rounded, the feathers broad to the end; consisting of from sixteen to twenty feathers. Toes naked.

**Subgenera.**

**Canace.** Tail of sixteen feathers; no air-sac on side of the neck. Size small. (Type, *T. canadensis*, L.)

**Dendragapus.** Tail of twenty feathers; an inflatable air-sac on side of the neck. Size large. (Type, *T. obscurus*, Say.)

The American species of Wood Grouse appear, on comparison, to be generically distinct from *Tetrao*, of the Old World, (type, *Tetrao urogallus*), and, moreover, are themselves comprised under two definable subgenera. *Canace* proper has a near relative in *Falcapennis*, Elliot, (type, *Tetrao falcapennis*, Hartlaub,) of Siberia, which differs merely in the attenuation of the primaries, and seems to us not separable from *Canace*. There is no European genus nearly related to our birds. *T. urogallus* differs very essentially in high, compressed, and light-colored bill, elongated and stiffened feathers of the whole head and neck, metallic colors, etc. *T. (Lyrurus) tetrix* approaches nearer in the bill, but also has metallic colors and a very peculiarly formed tail. Thus it seems absolutely necessary to adopt the name *Canace*, of Reichenbach, as a generic term by which to designate the American Wood Grouse.

SUBGENUS **CANACE**, REICHENBACH.

*Canace*, REICHENBACH, Av. Syst. Nat. 1851. (Type, *Tetrao canadensis*, L.)

**GEN. CHAR.** Tail of sixteen feathers, rounded, the feathers broad to the end. A colored (red or yellow) "comb" of naked skin over the eye. No inflatable air-sac on side of the neck. No crest, nor unusual plumes, about the head or neck.

**Species and Varieties.**

**T. canadensis.** Above distinctly barred with plumbeous and black; beneath black, with a white border to the throat, a white pectoral band, and white markings on the sides. *Female* barred with ochraceous, gray and black above, and with orange-ochraceous and black on the lower parts.

Tail rounded, tipped with rufous; upper tail-coverts tipped narrowly with deep ash. *Hab.* British America, east of the Rocky Mountains, from Alaska (Yukon region) to northern border of United States.

var. *canadensis*.

Tail nearly even, black to the tip, or else with a narrow white terminal bar; upper tail-coverts broadly tipped with pure white. *Hab.*

Northern Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast. . . . var. *franklini*.



**Canace canadensis, var. canadensis, LINN.****SPRUCE PARTRIDGE; CANADA GROUSE.**

*Tetrao canadensis*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1758, 159. — FORSTER, Phil. Trans. LXII, 1772, 389. — SAUND, Zool. App. Franklin's Exped. 683. — BONAP. Amer. Orn. III, 1830, pl. xxi, f. 2, ♀. — IB. Am. Phil. Trans. III, N. S. 1830, 391. — RICH. F. Bor. Amer. II, 1831, 346, pl. lxii, ♀. — NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 667. — AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 1834, 437; V, 1839, 563, pl. clxxvi. — IB. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 83, pl. cclxciv. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 622. — MAYNARD, B. E. Mass. 1870, 138 (Massachusetts). — COULS, P. A. N. S. 1861, 226. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. 1867, 86. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Ac. I, 1869, 287. — FINSCH, Abh. Nat. Verz. III, 1872, 61. *Canace canadensis*, REICH. Av. Syst. Nat. 1851, p. xxix. (Type, BONAP. Comptes Rendus, XLV, 1857, 428. — ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864, 23. — IB. Monog. Tetraon. pl. *Tetrao canace*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 275. *Black Spotted Heathcock*, EDWARDS, Glean. pl. cxviii. *Spotted Grouse*, PENNANT.

**SP. CHAR.** Tail of sixteen feathers. Above black. Feathers above distinctly banded with plumbeous; beneath uniform black, with a pectoral band of white, and white on the sides of the belly. Chin and throat above, black. Tail with a broad brownish-orange terminal band. Length, 16.20; wing, 6.70; tail, 5.44.

*Female* smaller, but somewhat similar; the black bars above broader, the inner gray bars of each feather, including the tail, replaced by broader ones of brownish-orange. The under parts have the feathers black, barred with the brownish-orange, which, on the tips of the belly-feathers, is pure white. The clear continuous black of the head and breast is wanting. The scapulars, greater coverts, and sides are streaked as in the male.

A female (No. 39,136, G. A. Boardman) from Maine differs from the above description in having the ground of the plumage a bright orange-rufous, the distinct bars of which are broader than the black ones; this is probably an autumnal bird, and represents the peculiar plumage of that season.

*Males* vary, individually, in the extent or uniformity of the black of the breast.

Specimens from Alaska (Nulato, Kodiak, etc.), Red River, Liard's River and Fort Liard, Hudson's Bay Territory, Canada, and Maine, appear to be absolutely identical.

The young in downy state are pale buff-yellow; the head above, with the back and wings, pale fulvous; a black stripe on side of head (from bill to end of auriculars), two spots on crown, and transverse crescentic spots on back and wings, black.

**HAB.** Spruce forests and swamps of the Northern United States to the Arctic seas; west nearly to Rocky Mountains.

**HABITS.** This bird, variously known as the Spruce or Wood Partridge, Canada, Black, or Spotted Grouse, is found, in favorable localities, from the Northern United States as far north as the woods extend, to the Arctic Ocean, being found, even in midwinter, nearly to the 70th parallel. Sir John Richardson found all the thick and swampy black-spruce forests between Canada and the Arctic Sea abounding with this species. In winter it descends into Maine, Northern New York, and Michigan. Its migrations are, however, only partial, as it is found in the severest weather of midwinter, in considerable numbers, as far north as latitude 67°. According to Mr. Douglas, west of the Rocky Mountains it is replaced by the *T. franklini*. This bird is said to perch in trees, in flocks of eight or ten, and is so stupid that

it may be taken by slipping a noose, fastened to the end of a stick, over its head. When disturbed, it flies heavily a short distance, and then alights again among the interior branches of a tree. Richardson invariably found its crop filled with the buds of the spruce-trees in the winter, and at that time its flesh was very dark and had a strong resinous taste. In districts where the *Pinus banksiana* grows it is said to prefer the buds of that tree. In the summer it feeds on berries, which render its flesh more palatable.

Captain Blakiston states that he has found this species as far west as Fort Carlton, and Mr. Ross has traced it northward on the Mackenzie to the Arctic coast.

Mr. Audubon met with it in Maine, in the vicinity of Eastport, where they were only to be met with in the thick and tangled forests of spruce and hackmatack. They were breeding in the inner recesses of almost impenetrable woods of hackmatack or larches. He was informed that they breed in that neighborhood about the middle of May, a full month sooner than they do in Labrador. In their love-season the males are said to exhibit many of the singular manners also noticeable in the other members of this family. They strut before the female on the ground, something in the manner of the common domestic Turkey-cock, occasionally rising in a spiral manner above her in the air; at the same time, both when on the ground and in the air, they beat their wings violently against their body, thereby producing a peculiar drumming sound, which is said to be much clearer than the well-known drumming of the Ruffed Grouse. These sounds can be heard at a considerable distance from the place where they are made.

The female constructs a nest of a bed of dry twigs, leaves, and mosses, which is usually carefully concealed, on the ground and under low horizontal branches of fir-trees. The number of eggs is said to vary from eight to eighteen in number. It is imagined by the common people that where more than ten eggs are found in the same nest they are the product of two females, who aid each other in their charge. The eggs are described by Audubon as of a deep fawn-color, irregularly splashed with different tints of brown. They have but a single brood in a season, and the young follow the mother as soon as they leave the shell.

As soon as incubation commences, the males desert the females and keep in small flocks by themselves, removing to different woods, where they usually become much more shy and wary than at any other season of the year.

In their movements on the ground these birds are said to resemble our common Quail, rather than the Ruffed Grouse. They do not jerk their tails in the manner of the latter bird, as they walk, nor are they known to burrow in the snow; but when they are pursued they invariably take refuge in trees, from which they cannot be readily made to fly. When driven from one place of refuge to another, they accompany their flight with a few *clucks*, and those sounds they repeat when they alight. When a flock thus alights, it

may all be readily secured by a little precaution and pains. It is said that they are so unwary and regardless of the near presence of man, that when thus in the imagined shelter of a tree they will permit themselves to be approached, the whole flock shot, or even knocked down with a stick. Sometimes they may all be taken alive, one after the other, by means of a noose affixed to the end of a long pole.

According to Audubon, the Canada Grouse indicate the approach of rainy weather by retiring to roost at an unusual time in the day, whenever a storm is impending. If observed to fly up to their roost at midday, it rarely fails to rain or snow before the evening; and if, on the contrary, they remain busily engaged in search of food until sunset, the night and the following morning are pretty sure to be fresh and clear.

The young of this Grouse are very strong and active from the moment they are hatched, and are able to fly at a very early age. When in Labrador, Mr. Audubon almost walked, by accident, upon a female Canada Grouse, surrounded by her young brood. This was about the middle of July. The affrighted mother, upon perceiving him, ruffled up all her feathers in the manner of the common Hen, and advanced close to him as if determined to defend her offspring. Her distressed condition claimed his forbearance, and she was allowed to remain in safety. As soon as he retired she smoothed down her plumage and uttered a tender maternal chuck, when the little ones took to their wings with ease, though they appeared to be not more than one week old.

Mr. Audubon found this Grouse moulting as early as the 20th of July. At that period the young were generally already able to fly fully a hundred yards in a single flight. They alighted on low trees and were easily taken alive.

This Grouse feeds, in the summer, on berries of various kinds, as well as upon the buds and leaves of several different kinds of plants and shrubs. In the autumn they gorge themselves with the berries of the Solomon's Seal. At this season their flesh is much the best. In the winter, when they feed on the buds of the hackmatack and the spruce and firs, and also upon the leaves of the spruces, as stated by Richardson, they have a bitter, disagreeable taste, and are hardly fit to eat.

This Grouse may be readily kept in confinement, and even made to breed there. Mr. Thomas Lincoln, of Dennysville, fed some of them on oats, on which food they appeared to thrive very well.

The eggs of this food vary in length from 1.75 inches to 1.68, and in breadth from 1.22 to 1.20 inches. Eggs taken at Fort Resolution, by Mr. Kennicott, have a ground of a deep dull cream-color, shaded with ochre. They are of an oblong-oval shape, speckled and marked with spots of a dark chestnut-color. In these specimens the spots are larger towards the smaller end.

**Canace canadensis, var. franklini, DOUGLAS.****FRANKLIN'S GROUSE.**

*Tetrao franklini*, DOUGLAS, Trans. Linn. Soc. XVI, 1829, 139. — RICH. F. BOR. AM. II, 1831, 348, pl. lxi. — BAIRD, BIRDS N. AM. 1858, 623. — LORR, Phil. R. A. Inst. IV, 1864, 123 (between Rocky Mountains and Cascades). — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. 1867, 86. — COOPER & SUCKLEY, 261. — COOP. ORN. CAL. I, 1870, 529. *Tetrao canadensis*, var. BONAP. AM. ORN. III, 1839, 47, pl. xx. (*Tetrao fuscus*, ORD. Guthrie's Geog. (2d Am. ed.) II, 1815, 317. (Based on small brown Pheasant of Lewis & Clark, II, 182, which very probably is this species.) *Canace franklini*, ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864. — IB. Monog. Tetraon. pl.

SP. CHAR. Similar to *C. canadensis*, but with the tail-feathers entirely black, without orange-brown terminal band; the upper tail-coverts broadly tipped with white. The tail less rounded. Wing, 7.35; tail, 5.62.

HAB. Northern Rocky Mountains, near the United States boundary, and west to Coast Range.

The difference from *canadensis* is very appreciable, though we cannot consider it as of specific importance. This consists chiefly in the rather longer, more even tail, with broader feathers, which are pure black instead of very dark brown, and entirely without the orange terminal band. The white streaks on the scapulars are larger terminally, and much more conspicuous, and the upper tail-coverts are conspicuously barred terminally with white, not seen in the other. The female differs from that of *canadensis* in the white bars at the ends of the tail-coverts, and in having the tail-feathers tipped with whitish instead of orange-brown.

*C. franklini*.*C. canadensis*.

HABITS. From the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, and from Oregon to high northern latitudes, this variety replaces the common Spruce Partridge of the Eastern Continent. Sir John Richardson, as well as Mr. Drummond, regarded these birds as only a western variety of the *canadensis*. The latter, who had ample opportunities for studying the manners of both, was unable to perceive any difference between them. Mr. Douglas took a different view, though he admitted that their habits were essentially the same. Swainson also regarded the two birds as distinct species. This variety is



stated by Richardson to inhabit the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, from the sources of the Missouri to those of the Mackenzie; and on the authority of Mr. Douglas, it is also to be seen sparingly on the elevated platforms that skirt the snowy peaks of Mount Hood, Mount St. Helens, and of Mount Baker, where it is said to run over the shattered rocks and among the brushwood with amazing speed, only using its wings as a last effort to escape. Mr. Douglas also states that it makes its nest on the ground, of dried leaves and grass, not unfrequently at the foot of decayed stumps, or by the side of fallen timber in the mountain woods. The eggs are incorrectly described as of a dingy whiteness and as smaller than those of the European *Columba palumbus*.

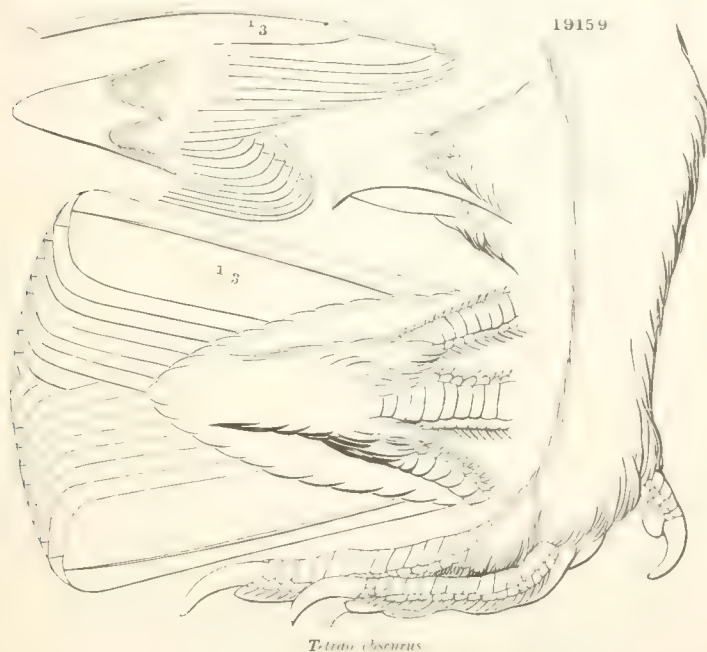
Dr. Suckley found this Grouse abundant in the Rocky as well as in the Bitterroot and the Cascade Mountains, and in Washington Territory, near the Yakima Passes. It is known to the Indians as the *Tyee-kulla-kulla*, meaning the *gentleman-bird*. It was only found plentiful in the eastern portion of Washington Territory. Specimens of this species, sent by Dr. Suckley to the Smithsonian Institution, were procured by Mullan in St. Mary's Valley, in the Rocky Mountains. They were quite common in that region, and were readily obtainable, as they were very tame and unsuspicious. Mr. George Gibbs informed Dr. Suckley that in November, 1847, he obtained in the Willamette Valley a small Grouse that may probably be referred to this species.

Mr. Lord thinks that this species is rarely found west of the Cascades; but on the eastern side and along the whole district lying between the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains it is common, always keeping among the mountains, to the height of seven thousand feet. He regards them as one of the most stupid of birds. When several are flushed together, they fly up into the nearest pine-tree, from which you cannot frighten them with sticks and stones. He has often shot several in a tree where there were others without the latter attempting to fly away. During the winter they remain in the deep woods and sheltered places, and feed on the buds of the pines. They nest in early May, and have chickens in June and July. He was of the opinion that these birds do not pair; but from the large number of females, as compared with the males, he thinks they are polygamists.

Captain Blakiston considers this variety to be confined to the Rocky Mountains and the country between that range and the Pacific. He met with it for the first time while following an Indian trail through a thick pine woods, from the summit of the Kootenay Pass into the valley of the Flathead River. The bird arose and perched itself on a projecting branch, when he was at once struck with the dissimilarity to the Canada Grouse, which was made still more apparent by the whiteness of its flesh. Afterwards he procured other specimens. He describes them as being quite as unsuspicious and stupid as the Canada Grouse, allowing themselves to be shot on the trees without making any attempt to escape.

SUBGENUS **DENDRAGAPUS**, ELLIOT.*Dendragapus*, ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. Palud. 1864. (Type, *Tetrao obscurus*, SAY.)

GEN. CHAR. Tail of twenty feathers, rounded, rather large (about two thirds the wing); the feathers broad to the tips, which are almost truncated. A colored (orange or



yellow) "comb" of naked skin over the eye, and an inflatable air-sac on side of the neck. No crest or other unusual plumes about the head or neck.

**Species and Varieties.**

**C. obscurus.** Above nearly uniform plumbeous-dusky, minutely mottled on the wings. Tail uniform black, with or without a lighter terminal band, and sometimes finely and obscurely mottled above. Lower parts nearly uniform clear plumbeous, or blackish-dusky; a dusky half-collar on the throat; chin and throat white, variegated with dusky. Length, about 20.50; wing, 9.40; tail, 7.45. *Female* smaller, the colors more variegated, with the dusky less continuous, and less in amount.

**A.** Tail rounded, with a distinct terminal band of clear plumbeous.

Above brownish-ashy, minutely mottled (transversely) with dusky and, to a less extent, with yellowish-brown. Beneath fine pure ash.

*Hab.* Sierra Nevada (from Fort Crook southwards) and Rocky Mountains, from the Hellgate region to New Mexico. *var. obscurus.*

Above brownish-black, minutely and sparsely mottled with slate and rusty-brown. Beneath dark plumbeous. (In northern specimens, especially in females from Sitka, much washed with dark castaneous-rusty.) *Hab.* Northwest coast mountains, from Oregon to Sitka. *var. fuliginosus.*

**B.** Tail nearly even, and without any terminal lighter band, or else having it badly defined.

Colors, in other respects, of var. *obscurus*, but cheeks, etc., less dusky. *Hab.* Rocky Mountains of British America, south to the Yellowstone and Hellgate region of United States (where grading into var. *obscurus*) . . . . . var. *richardsoni*.

### **Canace obscurus, var. obscurus, SAY.**

#### **DUSKY GROUSE.**

*Tetrao obscurus*, SAY, Long's Exped. R. Mts. II, 1823, 14. — BON. Mon. *Tetrao*, Am. Phil. Trans. III, 1839, 391. — *Id.* Ann. Orn. III, 1839, pl. xvm. — BARKER, Birds N. Am. 1858, 620. — SCL. P. Z. S. 1858, 1. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 86. — COOP. Orn. Cal. I, 1879, 526 (in part). — *Canace obscura*, BONAP. Comptes Rendus, XLV, 1857, 428. — *Dendragapus obscurus*, ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864, 23. — *Id.* Monog. Tetraon. pl.

SP. CHAR. *Male* (19,161, Deer Creek, Neb., Feb. 13; G. H. Troom.) Ground-color above slaty-black, but this almost completely overlaid by a minute, transverse mottling



*Canace obscurus*

of bluish-ash, — pale brown on scapulars and secondaries, — mostly on terminal portion of the feathers. Scapulars with a conspicuous shaft-streak and terminal spot of white. Terminal band of tail sharply and abruptly defined, pure pale bluish-ash, and 1.50 inches in width. Tail slightly rounded (about .80). Lower parts fine bluish-ashy, becoming lighter posteriorly, more plumbeous anteriorly. On the sides of the jugulum the feathers snowy-white beneath the surface, and this much exposed, producing a somewhat broken but conspicuous patch. Throat white, with transverse crescentic bars of dusky; this barred white curving upward to the auriculars, behind a uniformly blackish malar patch; lores and post-ocular region with distinct white spots, producing an inconspicuous stripe from the bill through the eye. All the feathers of the lower parts margined terminally with white, this growing broader on the flanks and crissum, the former of which have a more brownish and mottled ground, and broad white shaft-stripes. Lining of wing almost wholly white. Tarsi ashy-white. Length, 21.00; wing, 10.00; tail, 8.00; tarsus, 1.80; middle toe, 1.80.

*Female* (58,636, Uintah Mountains, July 5, 1868; R. Ridgway). Same white and black male in pattern. Dusky-black above, much broken by narrow transverse bars of yellowish-brown; these broad, regular, and sharply defined anteriorly, posteriorly broken and mottled. Middle tail-feathers much mottled, obscuring the ashy tip: ash beneath unbroken only on the abdomen; the jugulum, sides, etc., having transverse bars of yellowish-brown. Wing, 8.70; tail, 6.00.

*Young* (58,658, Uintah Mountains, July 5, 1868; R. Ridgway). Above yellowish-brown, the feathers with conspicuous shaft-streaks and deltoid terminal spots of white; both webs with large, transverse, roundish spots of black; secondaries with six bands of black and white, both broken, however, by coarse mottlings; tail like the secondaries. Beneath dull whitish; jugulum and sides with rounded spots of black, those on opposite webs not joining. Head yellowish-white, crown spotted with black; an indistinct dusky stripe over lores and upper edge of auriculars.

**HAB.** Rocky Mountain region of the United States, principally south of South Pass, and Sierra Nevada, north to Oregon and south to San Francisco Mountains, New Mexico.

The "Dusky Grouse" figured and described by Mr. Audubon of this species, is not the bird of Say, nor based on specimens collected by Townsend. The figures were probably taken from the skins in possession of Mr. Sabine, referred to by Bonaparte in American Ornithology (Vol. III, 1828, 36), which Sabine proposed to name after Richardson. Douglas, in describing his *Tetrao richardsoni*, quotes "Sabine MSS.," but does not describe his specimens, and, as far as his incomplete description goes, seems to have had the true *T. obscurus* before him. Richardson's description and figure belong to the second species, the same with Audubon's. Wilson's figures, in Illustrations of Zoölogy, 1831 (plates xxx, xxxi), are taken from specimens received from Mr. Sabine, of the same species, but in different and less perfect plumage than Mr. Audubon's.

**HABITS.** This species was first discovered and described by Say in 1820, though its existence had previously been known to the fur-trappers. Its food consists of various berries, and the flesh is said to be very palatable.

Dr. Newberry pronounces this Grouse decidedly the handsomest of all the American birds of this family; its flesh white, and fully equal to that of the eastern Ruffed Grouse or Quail. It is said to inhabit the evergreen forests exclusively, and to be found not uncommonly in the Sierra Nevada, as well as in the wooded districts of the country lying between the Sacramento Valley and the Columbia. In the Cascade Mountains Dr. Newberry found it associated with the Ruffed Grouse, which it resembles in habits more than any other species. When on the ground they lie very close, flying up from your very feet as you approach them, and, when flushed, always take to a tree, from which they cannot be dislodged except by shooting them. In the spring the male sits motionless on a branch of a pine or a spruce, and utters a booming call, which, by its remarkable ventriloquial powers, seems rather to mislead than to direct the sportsman, unless he is experienced in shooting this kind of Grouse.

Mr. George Gibbs informed Dr. Suckley that he has met with the Dusky Grouse as far south as the Russian River Mountains, in California, and found



it also common on the east side of the Cascades, as far north as the 49th parallel.

Dr. Cooper's account of these birds is substantially similar to the account given by Dr. Suckley of the *fuliginosus*. He found it common in most of the forests, especially in the dense spruce woods near the coast. It was rarely seen on the open prairie. In the dense woods it was exceedingly difficult to detect. During May, near the coast, and till August, on the mountains, the low tooting of this Grouse was heard everywhere, sounding something like the cooing of a Pigeon, but in the same deep tone as the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse. Dr. Cooper also mentions its remarkable powers of ventriloquism, so that while the bird may be sitting on a tree directly over your head the sound seems to come from places quite remote.

Dr. Woodhouse states that the Dusky Grouse is found among the mountains about Santa Fé, in New Mexico.

This Grouse was first met with by Mr. Ridgway on the Sierra Nevada, in the vicinity of Carson City, where it was seen in the possession of Indians who had been hunting on the mountains. It was found on the East Humboldt Mountains, in the month of September, and at that time occurred in small flocks, consisting chiefly of young birds, and probably composed of single families. Afterwards, in the summer of 1869, it was found in considerable abundance in Parley's Park, a few miles from Salt Lake City. It there chiefly inhabited the copses of scrub-oaks along the lower border of coniferous woods. In July it was found in the Uintah Mountains in very great abundance, and for a while formed the chief subsistence of the party. It was there known as the Mountain Grouse. Nothing very distinctive was ascertained in regard to its habits, except that it was said to resemble very closely, in manners, the Ruffed Grouse. Its flesh was excellent eating.

Dr. Suckley, in a series of papers on the Grouse of the United States which were read before the New York Lyceum in 1860, states that this species probably extend their range to quite a distance south of latitude 40° along the line of the Rocky Mountains, in New Mexico. This writer claimed to have met with them near Pike's Peak, in the Cheyenne Pass, and in 1853 he found them in great numbers in Lewis and Clarke's Pass, west of Fort Benton. He also found them abundantly in Oregon and on the slopes of the Cascade and Coast Ranges, extending wherever pine or fir timber occurs, to the very borders of the ocean. The Black Hills, in Nebraska, he gives as their most eastern limit.

The same author corrects the statements of Douglas as to certain habits of this species. The males are said not to be particularly pugnacious, and very rarely forsake the boughs of the pine or fir trees for a rocky eminence. They feed on berries only during a brief season in autumn, at all other times of the year subsisting upon the leaves of the pine and fir, especially those of the Douglas Fir. This food imparts a strong resinous flavor to the flesh of this Grouse, which, however, is not unpleasant, and after a while be-

comes quite attractive to the eye. The love-notes of this bird are said to be deep, soft, plaintive, but unmusical, and resemble the whirring sounds made by a rattan, swung rapidly and in jerks through the air. These notes usually begin the first week in March. The young are able to fly feebly by the first of July. By the last of August they have attained their full size. In the winter they retire to the tops of the loftiest firs, where they pass the season in an almost immovable state of hibernation. Between July and winter they may be readily shot. Once raised, they invariably fly to trees. They heed but little the report of a gun unless they have been wounded. Their flesh is said to be midway between the color of the Pinnated and the Ruffed Grouse, partaking of their good qualities, but surpassing either.

The eggs of this species are oval in shape; one end is a little more obtuse than the other. The ground is of a pale cream-color, and is marked with small rounded spots of reddish-brown. These are more numerous and larger towards the larger end. They measure 1.95 inches in length and 1.45 in breadth.

### **Canace obscurus, var. fuliginosus, RIDGWAY.**

#### **OREGON DUSKY GROUSE.**

*Tetrao obscurus*, NEWBERRY, P. R. R. Rept. VI, iv, 1857, 93. — COOP. & SECKL. 219. — LORD, Pt. R. A. Inst. IV, 122 (British Columbia). — DALL & BANNISTER, Trans. Chicago Ac. I, 1869, 287 (Alaska). — FINSCH, Ab. Nat. III, 1872, 61 (Alaska).

**SP. CHAR.** Beneath plain dark plumbeous, without whitish borders to the feathers except on flanks and crissum; whole head almost uniformly plain dusky-black. Tarsi dark plumbeous. Wing, 9.50; tail, 7.50; tarsus, 1.75; middle toe, 1.80.

*Female* (11,826, Chiloweyuck Depot, Washington Territory, Aug. 6, 1858; C. B. Kennerly). Above black, broken by transverse mottlings of bright reddish-brown or rufous; these confused posteriorly, but in form of regular transverse bars anteriorly. Below dusky-plumbeous, plain on abdomen, with sagittate spots on jugulum, and deltoid ones on the flanks, etc., of reddish-white. Length, 20.00; wing, 8.50; tail, 6.30.

*Adult male* (4,505, Cascade Mountains, Dr. Newberry). Above plain fuliginous-black, the mottlings scarcely apparent. No white markings on scapulars; tail-band deep plumbeous, only .60 wide, but well defined.

*Young* (11,827, Chiloweyuck Depot). Similar to, but much more reddish than, young of var. *obscurus*.

**HAB.** Northwest coast region, from Oregon to Sitka.

A male (46,070, May, 1866; Bischoff) from Sitka is much mottled with bright reddish-rusty on the dorsal region, and washed with the same on the forehead. (Tail-band .60 of an inch wide). A female (46,073, Sept., 1866) from same locality is so strongly washed with dark, almost castaneous, ferruginous as to appear mostly of this color above, this being very bright on the crown and forehead.

**HABITS.** This race is the more northern and northwestern coast form of

the Dusky Grouse, and is found from the Columbia River and British Columbia to Alaska. According to Dr. Suckley, it is generally known as the Blue Grouse in Oregon, and is also called the Pine Grouse, as well as the Dusky Grouse. He met with it for the first time when his party had reached the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, and where they found it exceedingly abundant, as afterwards in the Blue Mountains of Oregon, the Cascade Mountains, and in all the timbered country between the Coast Range and the Pacific Ocean. About the middle of November these birds are said to entirely disappear, and it is very rare to meet with even a single individual between that period and the 20th of the following March. As to their whereabouts during this period there is a great difference of opinion among the settlers. Some maintain that they are migratory and retire to the south. Others are of the opinion that they retire to the tops of the highest evergreen trees, where they pass the cold season in a state of partial torpor among the thickest foliage of the branches. As these birds are known to subsist on the leaves of the *Coniferæ*, and can always obtain sufficient water from the snow and rain-drops to supply their wants, Dr. Suckley was inclined to favor the latter explanation of their absence. He saw one of these birds on the ground during a fall of snow, in January, near the Nisqually River, in Washington Territory, and he was informed that a hunter near Olympia, whose eyesight was remarkably excellent, was able, any day during the winter, to obtain several birds by searching carefully for them among the tree-tops of the tallest and most thickly leaved firs. This requires much better eyesight than most men possess, for these birds are of a sombre hue, crowd very closely to the limb, and sit there immovable. They are therefore very difficult to find among the dense branches.

The first indication of their presence in spring is the courting call of the male. This is a prolonged sound, resembling the whirl of a rattan cane moved rapidly through the air. This is repeated several times with considerable rapidity, and then stops for a brief interval. This is said to be produced by the alternate inflation and contraction of sacs, one on each side of the throat, which are usually concealed by the feathers, and are covered by an orange-colored, thick, corrugated skin. At Fort Steilacoom these birds were very abundant during the spring and early summer, and were mostly confined to the forests of firs. Later in the season, and after hatching, they are more generally found on the ground in search of berries and seeds. When alarmed, they seek safety among the dense foliage of the trees, seeming instinctively to understand the advantage of thus hiding. He has known an entire flock of five, concealed among the ferns and grass, to be shot one by one, without an attempt being made by a single individual to fly. This Grouse is said to be a very fine table bird, its pine taste only adding to its game-flavor. Their full weight is from  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds.

Dr. Cooper never met with the nest of eggs of either of the races of the Dusky Grouse, but in June flocks of half-grown young were killed by the

Indians near Puget Sound. In winter they were so rarely seen west of the mountains that they are believed to keep entirely in the trees. In October, 1853, he saw a flock running through the snow near the Spokane Plains, one of which was shot; but he never afterwards met with any in the winter.

Mr. J. K. Lord found this Grouse almost exclusively on the western side of the Rocky Mountains. It appeared at Vancouver, at Nisqually, and along the banks of the Fraser River, about the end of March, the male bird announcing his coming by a kind of love-song. This is a booming noise, repeated at short intervals, and so deceptive that Mr. Lord has often stood under the tree where the bird was perched and imagined the sound came from a distance.

Mr. Nuttall found this Grouse breeding in the shady forests of the region of the Columbia, where he saw or heard them throughout the summer. He describes the tooting made by the male as resembling the sound caused by blowing into the bung-hole of a barrel. They breed on the ground, and are said to keep the brood together all winter.

Townsend describes the eggs as numerous, of a cinereous-brown color, blunt at both ends, and small for the bird. The actions of the female, when the young are following her, are said to be exactly similar to those of the Ruffed Grouse, employing all the artifices of that bird in feigning lameness, etc., to draw off intruders.

### **Canace obscurus, var. richardsoni, DOUGLAS.**

#### **RICHARDSON'S DUSKY GROUSE.**

*Tetrao obscurus*, AUD. Orn. Biog. IV, 1838, 446, pl. cccxv. — IB. Syn. 1839, 283. — IB. B. Am. I, 1842, 89. — NUTT. Orn. I, 1840, 602. — SWAINS. F. B. A. II, 1831, 344, pl. lix, lx. *Tetrao richardsoni*, DOUGL. Linn. Trans. XVI, 141. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, 122 (between Cascade and Rocky Mountains). — GRAY, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 86. *Dendragapus richardsoni*, ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864, 23. — IB. Monog. Tetraon. pl. — WILSON, Illust. 1831, pl. xxx, xxxi.

**SP. CHAR.** Tail-feathers broad and nearly truncated; tail almost perfectly square, and black to the tip, with the terminal band either only faintly indicated or entirely wanting; in all other respects exactly like var. *obscurus*. *Male* (18,397, Browns Cut off. N. Rocky Mountains; Lieutenant Mullan). Length, about 20.00; wing, 9.00; tail, 7.30; tarsus, 1.70; middle toe, 1.85. *Female* (18,398, forty miles west of Fort Benton; Lieutenant Mullan). Wing, 8.60; tail, 6.00; tarsus, 1.60; middle toe, 1.60.

**HAB.** Rocky Mountains of British America, south to the Yellowstone and Hellgate region of the United States.

No. 18,377, Hellgate, and others from localities where this form and var. *obscurus* approach each other, have the terminal zone of the tail of the usual width, and even sharply defined; but it is so dark as to be scarcely distinguishable from the ground-color.



**HABITS.** In regard to distinctive peculiarities in habits and manners, of this form of Grouse, if it possesses any, our information is quite limited. In its external markings and in size it appears to be readily distinguishable from the *T. obscurus* either specifically or as a well-marked interior race. Mr. J. K. Lord refers to it in his account of the *obscurus*, where he states that between the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains the Dusky Grouse appears to be replaced by a well-marked variety, if not a distinct species. In size it is a trifle smaller, but the great mark of distinction is the entire absence of the white band at the end of the tail. In their habits, in their periods of arrival and departure, or rather of appearance and disappearance, the two varieties are pronounced to be, in every respect, similar. In regard to their unexplained disappearance and reappearance, Mr. Lord is of the opinion that these birds do not migrate, but only retire into the thickest trees, and, living on the buds, pass the winter thus sheltered in the tree-tops.

Captain Blakiston thinks that this species is the form that inhabits the interior of British North America, and refers the figure of the male in Richardson's *Fauna* to the *richardsoni*, — the Black-tailed and smaller species. In his wanderings he met with these birds only in or near the pine woods on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains; but, having killed only females, he could not feel certain of the species. These Grouse range towards the Pacific as far as the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and British Columbia, and along the Rocky Mountains from the head-waters of the Platte to the Liard River, a tributary of the Mackenzie. When the ranges of the two species are fully defined, he thinks the *T. richardsoni* will be found the more northern bird.

The eggs of *Tetrao richardsoni* are very similar, except in size, to those of the *obscurus*, resembling them closely in their ground-color, as well as in their markings. In the specimens in the cabinet of the Boston Natural History Society the spots are smaller, a little less distinct, and less numerous. The eggs are 1.75 inches in length, and from 1.35 to 1.36 inches in breadth.

#### GENUS **CENTROCERCUS**, SWAINSON.

*Centrocercus*, SWAINSON, F. B. A. II, 1831, 496. (Type, *Tetrao acrophasianus*, BON.)

**GEN. CHAR.** Tail excessively lengthened (longer than the wings), cuneate, the feathers all lanceolate and attenuate. Lower throat and sides of the neck with stiffened, apparently abraded, spinous feathers. Nasal fossæ extending very far forward, or along about two thirds of the culmen. Color mottled yellowish-grayish and dusky above; beneath whitish with black abdominal patch. Stomach not muscular, but soft, as in the Raptorial birds!

**Centrocercus urophasianus, (Bon.) Sw.****SAGE-COCK; COCK OF THE PLAINS.**

*Tetrao urophasianus*, BONAP. Zool. Jour. III, Jan. 1828, 214. — *Id.* Ann. Orn. III, 1830, pl. xvi, f. 1. — *Id.* Mon. *Tetrao*, in Trans. Am. Phil. Soc. N. S. III, 1839, 329. DOUGLAS, Trans. Linn. Soc. XVI, 1829, 133. — NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 666. — AUD. Orn. Birc. IV, 1848, 503, pl. c. lxxi. — *Id.* Biol. Amer. V, 1842, 106, pl. cxxvii. — NEWBERRY, Zool. Cal. & Or. Route. Rep. P. R. R. Surv. VI, iv, 1857, 95. — MAX. Cab. J. VI, 1858, 431. — WILSON, Illust. 1831, pl. xxvi, xxvii. *Tetrao (Centrocercus) urophasianus*, Sw. F. Bor. Am. II, 1831, 358, pl. lviii. — GRAY, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. III, 46, 1844. — BALD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 624. — COOP. & SICK, 222. — JARD. Game Birds, Nat. Lib. IV, 140, pl. xvii. — ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864, . — *Id.* Monog. *Tetrao*, pl. . — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 87. — COOP. & SICK, 222. COOP. Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 536. *Centrocercus urophasianus*, JARDINE, Game Birds, Nat. Lib. Birds, IV, 140, pl. xvii. ?? *Tetrao phasianellus*, ORD, Guthrie's Geog. (2d Am. ed.) II, 1815, 317, based on Lewis & Clark, II, 181. *Cock of the Plains*, LEWIS & CLARK, II, 180, sp. 2.

SP. CHAR. Tail-feathers twenty. Above varied with black, grayish-brown, and brownish-yellow; coverts having all the feathers streaked with the latter. Beneath black; the breast white; the upper feathers with spiny shafts; the lower streaked with black; tail-coverts with white tips; the sides also with much white. *Male*. Length, 33.00; wing, 13.00; tail, 13.00. *Female*. Length, 21.50; wing, 10.75; tail, 7.50. *Chick*. Upper surface brownish-gray, lower grayish-white. Above irregularly and coarsely marbled with black, the markings most conspicuous on the head. Bill black.

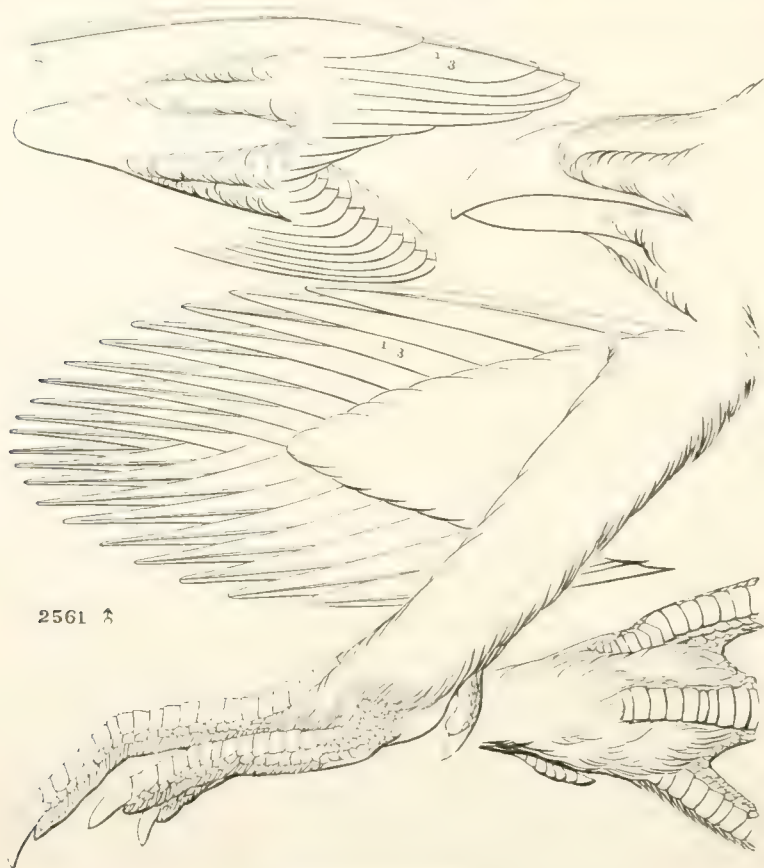
HAB. *Artemisia*, or sage, plains of the Northwest.

HABITS. The Cock of the Plains appears to be confined to dry and sterile regions, from the Black Hills to California and Oregon, and from British Columbia nearly to Arizona, but only in those portions of the plains in which the *Artemisia*, or sage, abounds. It was met with by Townsend for the first time about fifty miles west of the Black Hills. He did not find them in the valley of the Snake River, but saw them again at Wallah-Wallah, on the banks of the Columbia, and near the mouth of the Lewis River. He only found it on the plains that produce the wormwood, on which plant it feeds, and in consequence of which the flesh becomes so bitter that it is unfit for food. It was very unsuspicious and easily approached, rarely flying unless hard pressed, and running ahead at the distance of a few feet, clucking like the common Hen. When disturbed, it would often run under the horse's feet. According to his account it rises very clumsily, but, when once started, flies with great rapidity and also to a great distance. It is said to have the sailing motion of the Pinnated Grouse. They are abundant in autumn on the branches of the Columbia, at which time they are regarded as good food by the natives, and are taken in great quantities in nets.

Mr. Nuttall met with this Grouse in considerable numbers on the north branch of the Platte. They were always on the ground in small flocks or pairs, by no means shy; but when too nearly approached, uttering a rather loud but short guttural cackle, and rising with a strong whirring sound.

Their notes, at times, strongly resembled those of the common Hen. He never met with them in any forest, nor have they been taken near the coast of California.

This species was first obtained by Lewis and Clark's party in their expe-



*Centrocercus urophasianus.*

dition to the Rocky Mountains. It was afterwards met with by Douglas, who published in the Linnæan Transactions (XVI, p. 133) an account of its habits. He described its flight as slow, unsteady, and as affording but little amusement to the sportsman; being a succession of flutterings, rather than anything else. They rise hurriedly, giving two or three flaps of the wing, swinging from side to side in their movement, and gradually falling, making a whirring sound, at the same time uttering a cry of *cuck-cuck-cuck*, like the common Pheasant. They pair in March and April.

At the mating-season the male is said to select some small eminence on the banks of streams for the very singular performances it goes through with at that period in the presence of its mate. The wings are lowered and dragged on the ground, making a buzzing sound; the tail, somewhat erect, is

spread like a fan; the bare and yellow oesophagus is inflated to a prodigious size, and said to become nearly half as large as its body, while the silky flexile feathers on the neck are erected. Assuming this grotesque form, the bird proceeds to display a singular variety of attitudes, at the same time chanting a love-song in a confused and grating, but not an offensively disagreeable tone, represented as resembling *hurr-hurr-hurr-r-r-r-hoo*, ending in a deep and hollow utterance.



*Centrocercus urophasianus.*

Their nests were found, by Douglas, on the ground, under the shade of *Artemisia*, or when near streams, among *Phalaris arundinacea*, and were carefully constructed of dry grass and slender twigs. The eggs are said to be as many as from thirteen to seventeen in number, and the period of incubation to be twenty-one or twenty-two days. The young leave the nest soon after they are hatched.

In the winter these birds are said to be found in large flocks of several hundreds, in the spring in pairs, and later in the summer and fall in small family groups. They were abundant throughout the barren arid plains of the Columbia and in Northern California, but were not met with east of the Rocky Mountains.

Dr. Newberry regards this Grouse, when in full plumage, as rather a handsome bird, and much better looking than any figure he has seen of it. It is much the largest of American Grouse, weighing from five to six pounds. The female is much smaller than the male, and is of a uniform sober-brown color. The male bird has a distinctive character in the spaces of bare orange-colored skin which occupy the sides of the neck, and are usually concealed by the feathers, but may be inflated to a great size. The species was not found in the valleys of California, but belongs both to the fauna of the interior basin and to that of the Rocky Mountains, the dry desert country lying on both flanks of this chain. He first found it high up on Pit River, and once came suddenly upon a male in an oasis near a warm spring, which started up with a great flutter and rush, and, uttering a hoarse *hek-hek*,



flew off with an irregular but remarkably well-sustained flight, which was continued until the bird was out of sight. In searching around he soon found its mate, which rose from under a sage-bush with a noise like a whirlwind. This specimen was secured, and these birds were afterwards found to be quite abundant, but very strong-winged and difficult to kill. It was no uncommon thing, Dr. Kennerly states, for him to pour a full charge of shot into them at a short distance, dislodging a quantity of feathers, and yet to have them fly off to so great a distance before they dropped that he could not follow them. He found them only in the vicinity of the sage-bushes, under which they were usually concealed. He afterwards saw them very abundant on the shores of Wright and Rhett Lakes. In one instance he observed a male bird to sink down on the ground, as the train approached, depressing its head, and lying as motionless as a stick, which it greatly resembled. As he moved towards it, the bird lowered its head until it rested on the ground, and made itself as small as possible, and did not rise until he had arrived within fifteen feet of it. West of the Cascade Range it did not occur, and all its preferences and habits seemed to fit it for the occupancy of the sterile region of the central desert. Its flesh is dark and highly flavored with the wormwood. The young, if parboiled and stewed, are said to be quite good; but, on the whole, this Grouse is inferior for the table to any other American species.

Dr. Cooper gives this bird as common in Washington Territory, on the high barren hills and deserts east of the Cascade Mountains, and limited in its range by the growth of the *Artemisia tridentata*, the leaves of which shrub seem to be the principal part of its food; the flesh tasting so strongly of it as to be unpalatable. He saw none north of the Spokane Plains, the country being apparently too woody. On those plains they were very common. He describes its flight as more heavy and less noisy than that of most Grouse, and when they are started, it commonly extends a long distance before alighting.

Dr. Suckley found the Sage-Cock abundant on the plains of Oregon, near Snake River, on both sides of the Blue Mountains, as also along the line of the Columbia, on the open plains, and on the sage barrens of the Yakima and Simcoe Valleys,—in fact, wherever the artemisia was found. The leaves of this shrub either are preferred or are necessary to its existence, for no other food was found in their full stomachs, even in localities where abundance of grass-seed, wild grain, grasshoppers, and other kinds of food, might be found. This species has apparently the power of going a long while without water. Lieutenant Fleming informed Dr. Suckley that he found them about twelve miles west of Fort Laramie, but they were not seen east of that point so far south. In August, 1853, one was procured about two hundred miles east of the Rocky Mountains. He also observed a small flock on the plains bordering on Milk River, in Nebraska. Near Soda Lake, the sink of the Mohave River, Dr. Cooper met with it, which is without

doubt the most southern point at which it has been discovered. Dr. Coues has never met with it in Arizona.

Mr. Ridgway encountered it everywhere in the Great Basin where there was a thrifty growth of the artemisia, which appears everywhere to regulate its existence. He corroborates the accounts given of its heavy, lumbering flight; and when it has once escaped, it flies so far that the sportsman rarely has a second opportunity to flush it. It rises apparently with great effort. He was told by the settlers of Nevada and Utah that the Sage-Hen was never known to touch grain of any kind, even when found in the vicinity of grain-fields. This is attributed to a very curious anatomical peculiarity of the species, — the entire absence of a gizzard; having instead a soft membranous stomach, rendering it impossible to digest any hard food. In a large number of specimens dissected, nothing was found but grasshoppers and leaves of the artemisia.

Two eggs in my cabinet, from Utah, measure, one 2.20 by 1.50 inches, and the other 2.15 by 1.45. They are of an elongate-oval shape, slightly pointed at one end. Their ground-color varies from a light-greenish drab to a drab shaded with buff. They are thickly freckled with small rounded spots of reddish-brown and dark chestnut.

#### GENUS **PEDICÆTES**, BAIRD.

*Pedicætes*, BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 625. (Type, *Tetrao phasianellus*, LINN.)

GEN. CHAR. Tail short, graduated; exclusive of the much lengthened middle part, where are two feathers (perhaps tail-coverts) with parallel edges and truncated ends



*Pedicætes phasianellus.*

half the full rounded wing. Tarsi densely feathered to the toes and between their bases. Neck without peculiar feathers. Culmen between the nasal fossæ not half the total length.

**Species and Varieties.**

**P. phasianellus.** Above variegated with transverse spots of yellowish-brown and black; wing-coverts with large, roundish white spots; outer webs of primaries with quadrate white spots. Beneath white anteriorly and along the sides, with V-shaped marks of brown or dusky. Sexes alike in color and size.

Above blackish-dusky, variegated transversely with yellowish-brown; scapulars with broad white medial longitudinal streaks of white. Markings below clear, uniform blackish-dusky. Toes entirely hidden by the long hair-like feathers of the tarsus. Head and neck with the ground-color white, the throat heavily spotted with dusky. *Hab.* British America to Arctic regions . . . . . var. *phasianellus*.

Above yellowish-brown, mixed with reddish, and variegated transversely with black; scapulars without white longitudinal spots. Markings beneath clear pale brown, with dusky borders. Toes entirely bare. Head and neck deep buff, the throat not spotted. *Hab.* Prairies and plains of northern U. S., from Wisconsin and Illinois to Oregon.

var. *columbianus*.

**Pediœetes phasianellus, var. phasianellus, ELLIOT.****SHARP-TAILED GROUSE.**

*Tetrao phasianellus*, LINN. S. N. I, (ed. 10,) 1758, p. 160. — FORST. Phil. Trans. LXII, 1772, 394, 495. — GMEL. LATH. — BON. Comp. List. — SABINE. EDWARDS. — RICHARDSON. *Centrocerus p.* G. R. GRAY, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. — BON. Compt. Rend. — ?SWAINS. F. B. A. (in part ?). *Pediœetes p.* (not of BAIRD, Birds N. Am.) — ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1862, 402-404. — IB. Monog. Tetraoninae, pl. — MURRAY, Edinb. Phil. J. 1859 (Trout Lake Station). — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Ac. I, 1869, 287. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 88. *Tetrao urogallus*, var.  $\beta$ , LINN. S. N. I, (ed. 12,) 273. *Pediœetes kennicotti*, SUCKLEY, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1861.

**SP. CHAR.** Prevailing colors, clear dusky-black above, and pure white beneath; no buff about the head. Upper parts variegated with transverse, rather zigzag, spots of



*Pediœetes phasianellus*

yellowish-brown; scapulars with broad, elliptical, longitudinal medial spots of pure white; wing-coverts with large rounded, and outer webs of primaries with smaller and more quadrate, spots of pure white. Breast thickly covered with broad V-shaped, and the sides with

less numerous sagittate, marks of uniform clear slaty or dusky. Legs densely feathered, the long hair-like feathers reaching beyond the claws, and completely hiding the toes. Throat thickly spotted with dusky. No appreciable differences in plumage between the sexes. *Male* (31,616, Fort Resolution, Dec. 1862; J. Lockhart). Wing, 8.60; tail, 4.50, the two middle feathers one inch longer.

**HAB.** British America, from Hudson's Bay Territory, south to northern shore of Lake Superior, and west to Alaska and British Columbia.

**HABITS.** The Arctic form of the Sharp-tailed Grouse is found throughout the Arctic regions, from Alaska southward and eastward to an extent not fully ascertained. Mr. Dall states that this variety is not uncommon at Fort Yukon, where Mr. Lockhart found it breeding and obtained its eggs. It has also been seen some two hundred miles down the river, but it is said not to be found below the cañon known as the Ramparts. Captain Ketchum, in his adventurous winter trip from Nulato to Fort Yukon, is said to have killed several of these birds. Specimens are in the Smithsonian Museum from Moose Factory and elsewhere along the southern part of Hudson's Bay, and it is said to be abundant about Nipigon Lake, north of Lake Superior.

Mr. Kennicott found the nest of this bird at Fort Yukon, at the foot of a clump of dwarf willows. It was in dry ground, and in a region in which these willows abounded and were quite thickly interspersed with other trees, especially small spruces, but no large growth. The nest is said to have been similar to that of *Cupidonia cupido*. Mr. Lockhart also found it breeding in the same region. The nests seen by him were likewise built on a rising ground under a few small willows.

Richardson assigns as the northern limit of this species the region of the Great Slave Lake, latitude 61°, and as its most southern point latitude 41°. It was found in abundance on the outskirts of the Saskatchewan plains and throughout the wooded districts of the fur countries, frequenting the open glades or low thickets on the borders of lakes, especially where the forests have been partially cleared; perching on trees in the winter, but keeping to the ground in the summer; and, at all seasons, met with in small flocks of from ten to sixteen. They are said, early in spring, to select some level place, where a covey meets every morning and runs round in a circle of about twenty feet in diameter, so that the grass is worn quite bare. If any one approaches this circle, the birds squat close to the ground; but if not alarmed by a too near approach, they soon stretch out their necks to survey the intruder, and resume their circular course, some running to the right and others to the left, meeting and crossing each other. These "partridge-dances" are said to last a month or more, or until the female begins to incubate. This Grouse rises from the ground with the usual whirring noise, and alights again at a distance of a few hundred yards, sometimes on the ground or on the branches of a tree. In winter they hide in the snow, and make their way with ease through the loose drifts, feeding on the buds of the willows, larches, aspens, etc. In summer and autumn their food is principally berries. They are said to lay about thirteen eggs early in June; the nest being on the ground, formed of grasses lined with feathers.

The eggs of this variety closely resemble those of the *columbianus*, but are generally of a decidedly darker ground. They average 1.75 inches in length by 1.28 in breadth. Their ground is a dark tawny-brown minutely dotted with darker spots of brown.



***Pediœcetes phasianellus*, var. *columbianus*, BAIRD.****COLUMBIA SHARP-TAIL.**

*Tetrao phasianellus*, (not of LINN.,) ORD, Guthr. Geog. (2d Amer. ed.) II, 317, 1815.—  
 NEWB. AFR. NEWB. BON. SYN. and AM. ORN. COOL. & STOCK. MAX. Cat. J.  
 VI, 1858, 455. *Colinus* p. SWAINS. F. B. A. BONAP. Comp. Rend. *Pediœcetes*  
*p.* BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 626. *Phasianus columbianus*, ORD, Guthr. Geog. (2d.  
 Am. ed.) II, 317, 1815. *Pediœcetes columbianus*, ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. Philad. 1862,  
 463. DR. MEAD. TETRAONIDÆ. COOPER, ORN. CAL. I, 1870, 532. *Tetrao unicolor*  
*nellus*, DOUGL. Trans. Linn. Soc. XVI, 136, 1829.

**SP. CHAR.** Prevailing colors yellowish-brown and white; ground-color of head and neck deep buff. Upper parts variegated with transverse spots of black, and more or less tinged with rusty; scapulars without longitudinal spots of white; wing-coverts and outer webs of primaries with large conspicuous spots of pure white, the former roundish, the latter more quadrate. Breast and sides with V-shaped markings of pale yellowish-brown, bordered with dusky. Throat immaculate, or only minutely speckled; feathers of tarsus short, the toes completely bare. No appreciable difference between the sexes. *Male* (22,011 Simiahmoo, Washington Territory; Dr. Kennerly). Wing, 8.00; tail, 4.40, two middle feathers one inch longer. *Female* (19,173, Rose Brier Creek; F. V. Hayden)! Wing, 8.80; tail, 4.00.

**HAB.** Plains and prairies of the United States, from Illinois and Wisconsin, west to Oregon, Nevada, etc.; south to Colorado, New Mexico, etc.

**HABITS.** This species is the more southern of the two varieties of Sharp-tailed Grouse found in North America. Owing to the confusion which has existed until recently, in which both the northern and southern races have been considered as one, the geographical distribution of each may not be defined with complete exactness. The present form is found in Illinois and Wisconsin, and westward to Oregon and Washington Territory, and as far to the north as British Columbia and the southern portions of the Saskatchewan Valley.

Dr. Newberry found this Grouse associated with the Prairie Chicken on the prairies bordering on the Mississippi and the Missouri, and frequently confounded with that bird, though readily distinguishable by its lighter plumage, its speckled breast, and smaller size. It is always the least abundant of the two species, when found together. The range of this Grouse extends much farther westward; the *cupido* being limited to the valley of the Mississippi, while the former is found as far west as the valleys of California. North of San Francisco his party first found it on a prairie near Canoe Creek, fifty miles northeast of Fort Reading; subsequently, on a level grass-covered plain in the upper cañon of Pit River, these birds were met with in great abundance. They were also found about the Klamath Lakes and in the Des Chutes Basin, as far as the Dalles. The flesh was very much like that of the Prairie Chicken. This bird is said to lie close, and when flushed to fly off, uttering a constantly repeated *kuck-kuck-kuck*, moving with steadiness and considerable swiftness. It is, however, easily killed. The young

birds are fat and tender, and as they fall on the grassy prairie scatter their feathers, as if torn to pieces.

According to Dr. Suckley, the Sharp-tailed Grouse entirely replaces the Pinnated Grouse in Washington Territory. He first noticed it near old Fort Union, at the mouth of the Yellowstone River. From that point to the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington Territory it was exceedingly abundant wherever there was open country and a sufficiency of food. In certain places they were in great numbers in the autumn, congregating in large flocks, especially in the vicinity of patches of wild rye, and more recently near settlements where there were wheat-stubbles. They resemble the Pinnated Grouse in habits. Where they are numerous, they may frequently be found, on cold mornings in the autumn or early winter, perched on fences or on leafless trees, sunning themselves in the early sunlight. At Fort Dalles a young bird, scarcely two days old, was found on the first of April. This early incubation seems to prove that they must have more than one brood in a season. The young Grouse was confided to the charge of a Hen with a brood of young chickens; but it refused to associate with them, and escaped, probably to perish of cold. Dr. Cooper adds that this Grouse is found in Washington Territory only in the low alluvial prairies of the streams emptying into the Columbia east of the Cascade Mountains, where it was found in flocks of several hundreds. They shun high grounds and forests entirely. The only cry he ever heard them utter was a cackle when suddenly started from the ground. Their wings make a loud whirring, as among others of this family.

Mr. J. K. Lord found this species abundantly distributed on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, ranging right and left of the 49th parallel. It was particularly numerous on the plains near the Kootanie River, round the Osoyoos Lakes, and in the valley of the Columbia. He did not meet with any on the western side of the Cascade Range. It is also found in the Red River settlements and in Northern Minnesota.

Mr. Elliot is quite in error in stating that this Grouse does not occur east of the Mississippi as it is found nearly throughout Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. I have seen a flock within thirty miles of Chicago, and have from time to time had their eggs from Dane County, Wisconsin.

Mr. Lord regards this Grouse as remarkable both for its field qualities — such as lying well to a dog, rising with a loud rattling whir, frequenting open grassy prairies, and flying as straight as an arrow — and for its excellence as a table dainty. For delicacy of flavor its flesh is unequalled. With the fur-traders this species is known as the Spotted Chicken, and is, furthermore, the *Skis-kin* of the Kootanie Indians. Its singular combination of colors — white, black, and brownish-yellow — makes it exactly resemble the ground on which it lives, and admirably harmonizes with the dead twigs and leaves of the artemisia, the dry and sandy soil, the brown of the withered bunch-grass, and the sombre-colored lichens of the rocks. It often requires a keen and prac-

tised eye to distinguish one of these birds from the ground on which it has fallen, even though the eye be kept on the spot where it was seen to fall. This similarity of colors with those of the prairie no doubt effectually conceals them from the hawks and owls.

Its favorite haunt is on open grassy plains in the morning, keeping concealed in the long thick grass, coming about midday to the stream to drink, and to dust itself in the sandy banks. It seldom goes into the timber, always remains close to the prairie, and never retires into the depth of the forests. It lays its eggs on the open prairie in a tuft of grass, or near the foot of a small hillock, nesting early in spring, and depositing from twelve to fourteen eggs. The nest is a mere hole scratched in the earth, with a few grass-stalks and root-fibres laid carelessly and loosely over the bottom. Mr. Lord describes the eggs as of a dark rusty-brown, with small splashes or speckles of darker brown thickly spattered over them.

After nesting-time they appear in broods about the middle of August, the young birds being about two thirds grown. At this time they frequent the margins of small streams where there is thin timber and underbrush. After the middle of September they begin to pack, two or three coveys getting together, and flock after flock joining until they accumulate into hundreds. On the first appearance of snow they begin to perch on the dead branches of a pine or on the tops of fences. Near Fort Colville, after snow fell, they assembled in vast numbers in the large wheat-stubbles. They became wary and shy, the snow rendering every moving thing so conspicuous that it was next to impossible for dogs to hunt them.

The food of this Grouse consists principally of berries in the summer months, such as the snowberry, the bearberry, the haws of the wild rose, and the whortleberry, grain, the larvæ of insects, grass-seeds, etc. In the winter they run over the snow with ease and celerity, dig holes in it, and burrow underneath in the manner of a Ptarmigan. During the two winters Mr. Lord spent at Colville, flocks of these birds congregated around the hayricks at their mule-camp. In a temperature often 30° and more below zero, and the snow several feet deep, they were strong, fat, and wild, and did not appear to suffer at all from the intense cold. Indeed, they are said to pair very early in the spring, long before the snow has gone off the ground, and their meeting is preceded by some very singular performances, which are called by the fur-traders chicken-dances, to several of which Mr. Lord was an eyewitness. Groups of these birds assemble for their dances either about sunrise or late in the afternoon, selecting for the purpose a high round-topped mound, which in the course of their evolutions becomes worn quite bare. At one of the dances witnessed by Mr. Lord there were about twenty birds present; the birds nearest him were head to head, like gamecocks in fighting attitude, — the neck-feathers ruffed up, the little sharp tail elevated straight on end, the wings dropped close to the ground, but keeping up a rapid vibration or continued drumming sound. They circled round and

round each other in slow waltzing time, always maintaining the same attitude, but never striking at each other. Sometimes the pace increased, and one pursued the other until the latter faced about. Others jumped about two feet in the air until out of breath, and then strutted about in a peculiar manner; and others went marching about with tails and heads as high up as they could get them.

Captain Blakiston states that on the Saskatchewan this species was very generally distributed throughout the interior. He met with it just below the forks of the Saskatchewan, and traced it to the western base of the Rocky Mountains. He found it breeding at Fort Carlton. He regards these birds as of polygamous habits. In the fall they are found in families, in the semi-wooded country bordering on the prairies. They perch on trees, frequently at the very top, and their crops are found stuffed out with berries. These are chiefly the fruit of the bearberry, the ground juniper, the snowberry, the small prairie roses, the buffalo-berry, and several kinds of buds. They have also been known to feed on caterpillars and other insects baked and crisped by prairie fires. Captain Blakiston was also an eyewitness of one of the singular love-performances of these birds, known as dances. His account of it, which is very full, is almost exactly in correspondence with the account referred to as given by Mr. Lord.

Mr. Ridgway met with this Grouse at one locality only, encountering them late in September in the Upper Humboldt Valley. There it was found in considerable numbers in the rye-grass meadows on the foot-slopes of the Clover Mountains. They were startled from the ground, where they were hidden in the grass, and when surprised frequently took refuge in the willow-thickets along the streams near by. Their flesh was found to be most excellent.

The eggs of this species vary considerably in size, but average about 1.80 inches in length and 1.30 in breadth. They are oval in shape, slightly pointed at one end. Their ground varies from a light clay to a dark rusty-brown, generally plain, but frequently speckled minutely with fine dottings of a darker brown.

#### GENUS **CUPIDONIA**, REICHENBACH.

*Cupidonia*, REICHENBACH, Av. Syst. Nat. 1850, p. xxix. (Type, *Tetrao cupido*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Tail of eighteen feathers, short, half the lengthened wings; the feathers stiffened and more or less graduated. Bare inflatable air-sac of the neck concealed by a tuft of long, stiff lanceolate feathers; an inconspicuous crest on the vertex. Tarsi feathered only to near the base, the lower joint scutellate. Culmen between the nasal fossæ scarcely one third the total length.

This genus, as far as known, is entirely peculiar to North America, where but one species, with two races, is known.



## Species and Varieties.

**C cupido.** Ground-color above yellowish-brown, tinged with grayish and reddish; beneath white; whole upper and lower parts variegated with transverse bands, — those beneath regular, broad, sharply defined, and plain dusky-brown, those above more broken, broader, and deep black. Head buff, with a broad vertical stripe, a broad one beneath the eye from bill to ears, and a patch on lower side of auriculars, brownish-black.

Tarsi clothed with long hair-like feathers, the bare posterior face entirely hidden. Dark bars above, .30 or more in width, deep black; those beneath, about .20 wide, and dark brown. Top of head nearly uniformly blackish; face-stripes dusky-black. Bill, .40 deep, .50 long; wing, 9.00. *Hab.* Prairies of the Mississippi Valley; south to Louisiana; formerly eastward to Long Island and Pennsylvania . . . var. *cupido*.

Tarsi clothed with short feathers, the bare posterior face conspicuously exposed. Dark bars above less than .20 in width, dark grayish-brown; those beneath about .10 wide, and pale grayish-brown. Top of head with only a slight spotting of blackish; face-markings reddish-brown. Bill, .35 deep, .55 long, from nostril; wing, 8.30. *Hab.* Southwestern Prairies (Texas?) . . . var. *pallidicinctus*.

**Cupidonia cupido, var. cupido, BAIRD.****PRAIRIE HEN; PRAIRIE CHICKEN; PINNATED GROUSE.**

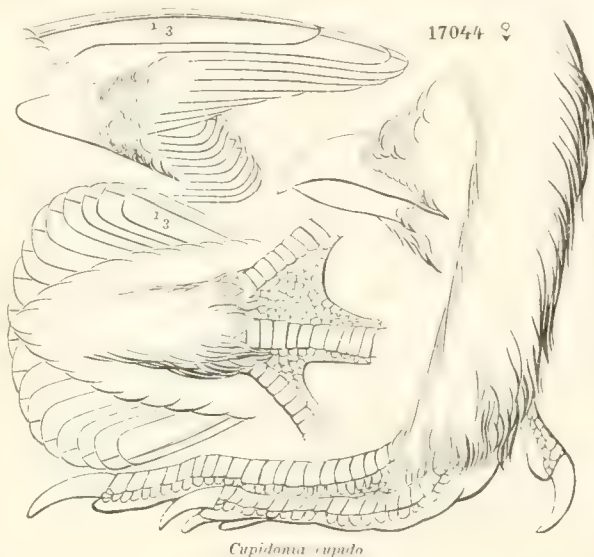
*Tetrao cupido*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1758, 160. — GM. I, 751. — LATH. Ind. Orn. II, 1790. — WILSON, Am. Orn. III, 1811, 104, pl. xxvii. — BON. Mon. *Tetrao*, Am. Phil. Trans. III, 1830, 392. — NUTTALL, Man. I, 662. — AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 1834, 490; V, 1839, 559, pl. cxxxvi. — IE. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 93, pl. cxxxvi. KOCH, Wiegmann's Archiv, 1836, I, 159. — MAX. Cab. J. VI, 1858, 439. *Bonasa cupido*, STEPHENS, Shaw's Gen. Zool. XI, 299. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 88. *Cupidonia americana*, REICH. Av. Syst. Nat. 1850, p. xxix. — BONAP. Comptes Rendus, XLV, 1857, 428. *Cupidonia cupido*, BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 628. — ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864. — IE. Monog. Tetraon. pl. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1866, 26 (Brownsville, Texas). MAYNARD, B. E. Mass. 1870, 138 (Martha's Vineyard, and Naushon Island, Mass.)

**SP. CHAR.** *Male* (10,006, Tremont, Illinois; W. I. Shaw). Ground-color above ochraceous-brown, tinged with grayish; beneath white, the feathers of the jugulum dark rusty-chestnut beneath the surface. Head mostly deep buff. Upper parts much broken by broad transverse spots, or irregular bars, of deep black, this color predominating largely over the lighter tints. Primaries and tail plain dusky; the former with roundish spots of pale ochraceous on outer webs, the latter very narrowly tipped with white. Lower parts with regular, continuous, sharply defined broad bars, or narrow bands, of clear dusky-brown. A broad stripe of plain brownish-black on side of head, beneath the eye, from rictus to end of auriculars; a blotch of the same beneath the middle of the auriculars, and the top of the head mostly blackish, leaving a broad superciliary and maxillary stripe, and the whole throat immaculate buff. Neck-tufts 3.50 inches long, deep black; the longer ones uniform, the shorter with only the edge black, the whole middle portion pale buff, shading into deep reddish-rusty next to the black. Wing, 9.00; tail, 4.50; bill, .40 deep by .50 long, from nostril; tarsus, 2.10; middle toe, 1.85. *Female* similar, but with shorter and inconspicuous cervical tufts. *Young* (25,998, Rockford, Illinois; Blackman). Above, including tail, yellowish-brown; feathers with conspicuous white shaft-streaks and large blotches of deep black. Outer webs of primaries with

whitish spots. Top of head rusty-brown with a black vertical and a dusky auricular patch. Lower parts yellowish-white, with irregularly defined, transverse, grayish-brown broad bars; anteriorly more spotted, the jugulum tinged with brown.

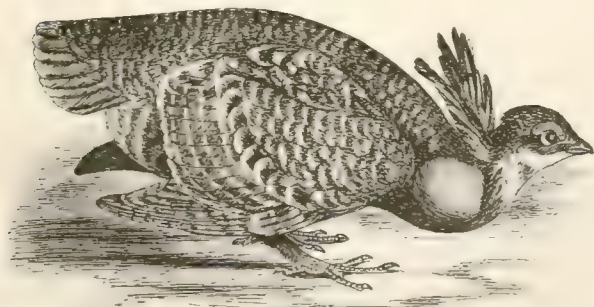
*Chick* (25,989, Rockford, Ill.). Bright lemon-buff, tinged on sides and jugulum with reddish; upper parts much washed with rusty. A narrow auricular streak, blotches on the vertex and occiput, a stripe across the shoulder, and blotches down the middle of the back and rump, deep black.

**HAB.** Prairies of the Mississippi Valley, from Louisiana, northward. East to Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania. Formerly along the eastern coast of the United States from Long Island to Cape Cod, or farther. A few still left on Naushon (?) and Martha's Vineyard.



A pair from Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana, most resemble Illinois specimens, but are smaller (wing, 8.60, instead of 9.00), and there is rather more reddish, with less black, in the plumage,

**HABITS.** The Pinnated Grouse, more generally known through the country as the Prairie Chicken or Prairie Hen, once occurred as far to the east as Massachusetts, a few still remaining on the island of Martha's Vineyard, and where it was, in the early settlement of the country, a very abundant bird; and to the southwest to Texas and throughout the Indian Territory, where it appears to be extending with the areas developed by civilization. While at the East this bird has almost entirely



*Cupidonia cupido.*

disappeared, in consequence of the increase of population, and except here and there in a few small and distant districts has disappeared from the Middle and Eastern States, at the West and Southwest it has greatly extended its distribution, appearing in considerable numbers, and constantly

increasing as the country is settled and the land cultivated with grain. Even in Illinois, where there has been a large increase of population during the past ten years, these birds are known to have become much more numerous. It is, however, probable that they will again be driven from this region when the population becomes quite dense. Mr. Allen met with this species in several points in Kansas and in Colorado, where they had either just made their appearance, or where they had recently been noticed, and were observed to be on the increase. The small remnants left in Massachusetts are protected by law, which may preserve them a few years longer; and in Illinois and other Western States stringent provisions seek to prevent their wanton destruction. In Michigan, according to Mr. D. D. Hughes, this Grouse is common in the two southern tiers of counties, but is rarely met with in that State farther north, — an absence attributable to the want of open country and suitable food, as west of Lake Michigan it is found in great abundance much farther north. In the more southern portion of the State it is already very rare, and in localities completely exterminated.

Dr. Woodhouse found this bird quite abundant throughout the Indian Territory; more numerous, however, in the vicinity of settlements. During the fall of 1849, as he was passing down the Arkansas River, along the road leading from Fort Gibson to Fort Smith, these birds were in large flocks, feeding among the oaks upon the acorns; hundreds were to be seen at the same time. It was also very common throughout Eastern Texas.

Mr. Dresser found the Pinnated Grouse very common in travelling from Brownsville to Victoria, after leaving the chaparral and entering the prairie country. Throughout the whole of the prairie country of Texas it is abundant.

They were found by Mr. Audubon especially abundant in the States of Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana, where his observations date back more than half a century, and when the country was comparatively unsettled. It was there, he states, in what was then known as the Barrens of Kentucky, that before sunrise, or at the close of the day, he "heard its curious boomings, witnessed its obstinate battles, watched it during the progress of its courtships, noted its nest and eggs, and followed its young until, fully grown, they betook themselves to winter quarters."

When he first removed to Kentucky the Pinnated Grouse were so plentiful, and were held in such low estimation, that no hunter deigned to shoot them. They were, moreover, looked upon with ill-favor by the inhabitants on account of the mischief they committed among the fruit-trees of the orchards during winter, when they fed upon the buds, or in the spring, when they consumed the grain in the fields. In those days, in the winter, this Grouse would enter the farm-yard and feed among the poultry, would even alight on the house-tops or walk in the streets of the villages. On one occasion he caught several alive in a stable at Henderson, where they had followed some Wild Turkeys. Twenty-five years later, Mr. Audubon adds, in the same coun-

try where they had been so very abundant, scarcely one could be found. Mr. Audubon speaks of their selling in Eastern markets, in 1840, at from five to ten dollars per pair. This is no longer, facilities in railroad transportation and their continued abundance at the West rendering them a comparatively plentiful and cheap article of food.

Mr. Audubon mentions that at the same period they were still to be met with in some portions of New Jersey, in the "brushy" plains of Long Island, on Mount Desert Island in the State of Maine, and also in another tract of barren country near Mar's Hill in the same State. In regard to the two last-named localities he may have been misinformed.

Mr. Lawrence mentions this species as still occurring in the vicinity of New York City. Mr. Turnbull mentioned it as now very rare, but occasionally met with, in the counties of Monroe and Northampton in Pennsylvania, and on the plains in New Jersey. It is not referred to by either Professor Verrill or Mr. Boardman as occurring in any part of Maine. It is, however, given by Mr. McIlwraith as an occasional visitor near Hamilton, in Canada, on the western frontier, a few individuals being occasionally observed along the banks of the St. Clair River, but not known to occur farther east.

Mr. Audubon also mentions having found these birds abundant in all the vast plains bordering on the prairies of the Arkansas River, and on those of the Opelousas in Louisiana.

In the earliest days of spring, even before the snows have all been melted, these birds no longer keep in large flocks, but separate into smaller parties, and the mating-season commences, during which their manners, especially those of the male, are very peculiar and striking. A particular locality is selected, to which they resort until incubation has commenced. The males meet in this place, and engage in furious battle with one another. At this season they are especially conspicuous for their great pomposity of bearing; with tails outspread and inclined forward to meet the expanded feathers of their neck, and with the globular, orange-colored, bladder-like receptacles of air on their necks distended to their utmost capacity, and issuing a peculiar sound, spoken of as *booming*, these birds strut about in the presence of one another with various manifestations of jealous dislike and animosity, soon ending in furious contests. Their wings are declined, in the manner of the Cock-Turkey, and rustle on the ground as the birds pass and repass in a rapid manner; their bodies are depressed, and their notes indicate their intense excitement. Upon the appearance of a female answering to their calls, they at once engage in their desperate encounters. They rise in the air and strike at one another in the manner of a gamecock, and several engage in a miscellaneous scrimmage, until the weaker give way, and, one after another, seek refuge in the neighboring bushes, the few remaining victors discontinuing their contests as if from sheer exhaustion.

The "booming" or "tooting" sounds made by these birds is heard before daybreak, and also at all hours before sunset, in places where they are



abundant and tame; but where they are rare and wild they are seldom heard after sunrise, and their meetings then are in silence. Even in the fall the young males evince their natural pugnacity by engaging in short battles, which their parents usually interrupt and put a stop to.

This bird nests, according to the locality in which it is met with, from the beginning of April to the last of May. In Kentucky, Mr. Audubon has found their nests with eggs early in April, but the average period there was the first of May. Their nests he describes as somewhat carelessly formed of dry leaves and grasses, interwoven in a tolerably neat manner, and always very carefully placed among the tall grass of some large tuft in the open ground of the prairies, or, in barren lands, at the foot of a small bush.

The eggs are said to be from eight to twelve in number, never more; they are larger and more spherical than those of the common *umbellus*, and are of a darker shade. The female sits upon them about twenty days, and as soon as the young can extricate themselves from the shell the mother leads them away, the male having previously left her.

Early in the fall the various broods begin again to associate together, and at the approach of winter it is not uncommon to see them in flocks of several hundred individuals.

The young broods, when come upon suddenly and taken by surprise, instantly scatter and squat close to the ground, so that, without a dog, it is impossible to find them. The mother gives a single loud chuck as a signal of danger, and the young birds rise on the wing and fly a few yards in different directions, and then keep themselves perfectly still and quiet until the mother recalls them by a signal indicating that the peril has passed. In the mean while she resorts to various devices to draw the intruder away from the place.

This Grouse raises but a single brood in a season; and if the first laying has been destroyed or taken, the female seeks out her mate, makes another nest, and produces another set of eggs. These are usually smaller in size and less in number than those of her first laying.

The Pinnated Grouse is said to be easily tamed, and may be readily domesticated, though I do not know that the experiment has been thoroughly tried. Mr. Audubon once kept sixty of them in a garden near Henderson, Ky. Within a week they became tame enough to allow him to approach them without being frightened. He supplied them with abundance of corn and other food. In the course of the winter they became so gentle as to feed from the hand, and walked about his garden like so many tame fowl, mingling occasionally with the poultry. In the spring they strutted, "tooted," and fought as if in their wild state. Many eggs were deposited, and a number of young birds were hatched out; but they proved so destructive to the vegetables that the experiment was given up and the Grouse were killed. The male birds were conspicuous for their courage, and would engage in contest with the Turkey-cocks, and even with the dunghill cock, rather than yield the ground.

In severe weather these birds have been known to roost in trees, but they generally prefer to rest on the ground. Advantage is sometimes taken to secure them by visiting their resting-places in the night with nets. On the ground they walk somewhat in the manner of the common Hen, but in a more erect attitude. When surprised, they rise with a whirring sound; but if they perceive the approach of any one at a sufficient distance, they run off with considerable speed, and hide by squatting in the grass or among bushes. They are fond of dusting themselves in ploughed fields or in dusty roads, rearranging their feathers in the manner of the Wild Turkey.

When the female, with her young brood, is surprised, she instantly ruffles up her feathers, and acts as if she contemplated flying in your face; this she rarely, if ever, attempts, but resorts to various artifices to decoy the intruder away.

Their flight is said to be strong, regular, and swift, and may be protracted to the distance of several miles. It is less rapid than that of the *umbellus*, and the whirring, as they rise from the ground, less conspicuous. As they rise, they utter four or five very distinct clucks, but at times fly in silence.

Their flesh is dark, and the flavor is very distinctly gamy, and is generally regarded as excellent.

In the love-season the males inflate the two remarkable air-bladders, which, in color and shape, resemble small oranges, lower their heads to the ground, open their bills, and give utterance to very singular and distinctly separated notes, by means of the air contained in these receptacles, rolling somewhat in the manner of the beatings of a muffled drum. The air-reservoirs are alternately filled and emptied as they make these sounds. Their notes may be heard to the distance of nearly a mile. When these skins are punctured, they are no longer resonant.

The late Mr. David Eckby, of Boston, furnished Mr. Audubon with a full account of their habits, as observed by him in Martha's Vineyard, and also on the island of Nashawena, where they were then kept in a preserve. They were observed never to settle down where the woods were thick or the bushes tangled, but invariably in the open spaces; and as they never start up from the thick foliage, but always seek to disengage themselves from all embarrassment in their flight by reaching the nearest open space, they offer to the sportsman a very fair mark. The sound they utter in rising, when hard pressed, is said to resemble the syllables *coo-coo-coo*. They were observed to feed on the berries of the barberry, which abound on those islands, boxberries, cranberries, the buds of roses, pines, and alders, and on the nuts of the post-oaks, and in the summer upon the more esculent berries. At the West they frequently feed on the seeds of the sumach. They are also very destructive to the buds of the apple, and are very fond of the fruit of the fox-grape and the leaves and berries of the mistletoe. During the planting-season their visits to the wheat and corn fields are often productive of great damage.

Three eggs in my collection, taken from a nest near Osage Village, in In-

dian Territory, which contained sixteen eggs, measure, one 1.65 by 1.20 inches, another 1.63 by 1.28, and the third 1.75 by 1.28 inches. They are of a rounded-oval shape, more obtuse at one end than the other, and of a uniform color, which varies from a light clay-color to a dark tawny-brown. The eggs are sometimes, but not always, minutely sprinkled with brown.

### **Cupidonia cupido, var. pallidicinctus, RIDGWAY.**

#### **THE TEXAS PRAIRIE HEN.**

*Cupidonia cupido, var. pallidicinctus, RIDGWAY.*

SE. CHAR. Similar to var. *cupido*, but above nearly equally barred with pale grayish-ochraceous and dusky or blackish-brown. Beneath white, with faint, but sharply defined, narrow bars of pale grayish-brown. Top of head with light bars prevailing; head-stripes reddish-brown. *Male* (10,007, Prairies of Texas, Staked Plains?; Capt. J. Pope, U. S. A.). Wing, 8.30; tail, 4.20; tarsus, 1.70; middle toe, 1.50. *Female* (10,005, same locality, etc.). Wing, 8.20.

HAB. Southwestern Prairies (Staked Plains, Texas?).

In its relations with the *C. cupido*, this race bears a direct analogy to *Pediocetes columbianus*, as compared with *P. phasianellus*, and to *Ortyx texanus*, as distinguished from *O. virginianus*. Thus in a much less development of the tarsal feathers it agrees with the southern *Pediocetes*, while in paler, grayer colors, and smaller size, it is like the southwestern *Ortyx*.

### **GENUS BONASA, STEPHENS.**

*Bonasa*, STEPHENS, Shaw's Gen. Zool. XI, 1819. (Type, *Tetrao bonasus*, L.)  
*Tetrastes*, KEYS & BLAS. Wirb. Europ. 1840, p. lxiv.

GEN. CHAR. Tail widening to the end, its feathers very broad, as long as the wings; the feathers soft, and eighteen in number. Tarsi naked in the lower half; covered with two rows of hexagonal scales anteriorly, as in the *Ortyginæ*. Sides of toes strongly pectinated. Naked space on the side of throat covered by a tuft of broad soft feathers. Portion of culmen between the nasal fossæ about one third the total length. Top of head with a soft crest.

This genus, in its partly naked tarsi, with two rows of scutellæ anteriorly, indicates a close approach to the American Partridges, or Quails. It has a single European representative, the *B. sylvestris*, Steph.

#### **Species and Varieties.**

**B. umbellus.** Rump with cordate light spots; sides with transverse dark spots. Tail with two gray bands (one terminal), with a broad blackish zone between them. Cervical tufts glossy black or dark brown, with a semi-metallic steel-blue or green border.

Prevailing color bright ochraceous-rufous; tail always rufous in the Middle and Southern States, occasionally gray on the Alleghany Mountains, and in New England States; usually gray in Eastern British America. *Hab.* Eastern Province of North America . . . var. *umbellus*.

Prevailing color bluish-ashy; tail always pale ash. *Hab.* Rocky Mountains of United States, and interior regions of British America, to the Yukon . . . . . var. *umbelloides*.

Prevailing color dark ferruginous; tail always dark ferruginous near the coast, occasionally dark gray in mountainous regions. *Hab.* Northwest coast region (Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, etc.) var. *sabini*.

The above synopsis is intended to present in the simplest form the characteristic features of the three definable races of this exceedingly variable species, as exhibited in a light rusty rufous-tailed form of the Atlantic States, a pale gray ashy-tailed form of the Rocky Mountains of the United States and British America, and a dark rusty rufous-tailed form of the northwest coast region. These three, when based on specimens from the regions where their characters are most exaggerated and uniform, appear sufficiently distinct; but when we find that specimens from the New England States have the rufous bodies of *umbellus* and gray tails of *umbelloides*, and that examples from Eastern Oregon and Washington Territory have the dark rusty bodies of *sabini* and gray tails of *umbelloides*, and continue to see that the transition between any two of the three forms is gradual with the locality, we are unavoidably led to the conclusion that they are merely geographical modifications of one species. The continuity of the dark subterminal tail-band in *umbellus*, and its interruption in *umbelloides*, — characters on which great stress is laid by Mr. Elliot in his monograph, above cited, — we find to be contradicted by the large series which we have examined; neither condition seems to be the rule in either race, but the character proves to be utterly unreliable.

In the less elevated and more southern portions of the Eastern Province of the United States, as in the Mississippi Valley and the States bordering the Gulf and South Atlantic, the rufous type is prevalent; the tail being always, so far as the specimens we have seen indicate, of an ochraceous-rufous tint. Specimens with gray tails first occur on the Alleghany Mountains, and become more common in the New England States, the specimens from Maine having nearly all gray tails. Specimens from Labrador approach still nearer the var. *umbelloides*, — the extreme gray condition, — and agree with Alaskan specimens in having more brown than those from the interior portions of British America or the Rocky Mountains of the United States. More northern specimens of the inland form have, again, a greater amount of white than those from the south or coastward. Passing southward from Alaska toward Oregon, specimens become darker, until, in the dense humid forests of the region of the Columbia, a very dark plumage, with little or no gray, prevails, most similar to, but even more reddish and much darker, than the style of the Southern States of the Eastern Province. Passing from the



low coast forests to those of the mountains, we find again equally dark specimens, but with grayish tails; the amount of gray increasing, and its shade lightening, as we approach the central Rocky Mountains.

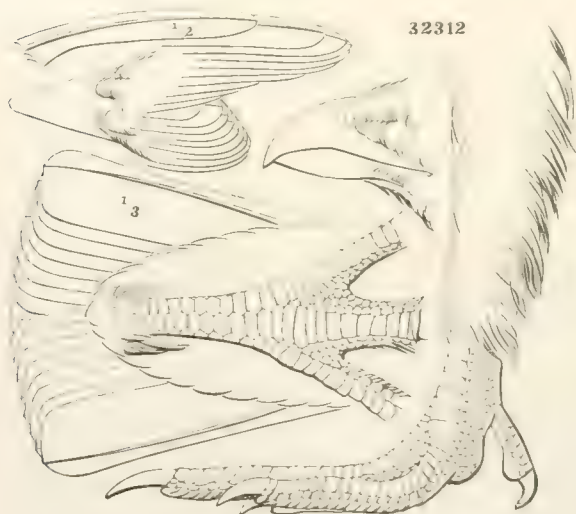
The American species of *Bonasa* possesses a quite near analogue in the *B. sylvestris*, Bonap. (*Tetrao bonasia*, Linn.), or Hazel Grouse, of Europe. This species has almost exactly the same pattern of coloration (including tail-markings), but is very much smaller, has the neck-tufts rudimentary and white, and the throat black, instead of just the reverse.

### ***Bonasa umbellus*, var. *umbellus*, STEPHENS.**

#### **RUFFED GROUSE; PARTRIDGE; PHEASANT.**

*Tetrao umbellus*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 275, 6. — WILSON, Am. Orn. VI, 1812, 46, pl. xlix. — DOUGHTY, Cab. N. H. I, 1830, 13, pl. ii. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 1831, 211; V, 560, pl. xli. — IB. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 72, pl. cccxiii. *Tetrao (Bonasia) umbellus*, BONAP. Syn. 1828, 126. — IB. Mon. *Tetrao*, Am. Phil. Trans. III, 1830, 389. NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 657. *Bonasia umbellus*, STEPHENS, SHAW, Gen. Zool. XI, 1824, 300. — BONAP. Comptes Rendus, XLV, 1857, 428. — BARKER, Birds N. Am. 1858, 630. — ELLIOT, Monog. Tetr. pl. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 89. *Tetrao togatus*, LINN. I, 1766, 275, 8. — FORSTER, Philos. Trans. LXII, 1772, 393. *Tetrao tympanus*, BARTRAM, Travels in E. Florida, 1791, 290. *Ruffed Grouse*, and *Shoulder-haul Grouse*, PENNANT & LATHAM.

SP. CHAR. Above ochraceous-brown, finely mottled with grayish; the scapulars and wing-coverts with pale shaft-streaks, the rump and upper tail-coverts with medial cordate



*Bonasa umbellus*.

spots of pale grayish. Tail ochraceous-rufous, narrowly barred with black, crossed terminally with a narrow band of pale ash, then a broader one of black, this preceded by another ashy one. (In specimens from the Alleghany Mountains and New England States, the tail usually more or less grayish to the base, sometimes entirely destitute of rufous tinge.) Throat and foreneck ochraceous. Lower parts white (ochraceous beneath the surface), with broad transverse bars of dilute brown, these mostly concealed on the abdomen.

Lower tail-coverts pale ochraceous, each with a terminal deltoid spot of white, bordered with dusky. Neck-tufts brownish-black. Length, 18.00; wing, 7.20; tail, 7.00. *Female* smaller, and with the neck-tufts less developed, but colors similar. *Young* (39,161, St. Stephen's, N. B.; G. A. Boardman). Brown above, and dingy-white beneath; a rufous tinge on the scap-

ulars. Feathers of the jugulum, back, scapulars, and wing-coverts with broad medial streaks of light ochraceous, and black spots on the webs; jugulum with a strong buff tinge. Secondaries and wing-coverts strongly mottled transversely. Head dingy buff, the upper part more rusty; a post-ocular or auricular dusky patch, and a tuft of dusky feathers on the vertex. *Chick.* Above light rufous, beneath rusty-white; uniform above and below; a dusky post-ocular streak, inclining downwards across the auriculars. Bill whitish.

*HAB.* Eastern Province of North America; in the northeastern portions (New England, Labrador) and Alleghany Mountains inclining toward var. *umbellus* in having a gray tail.

*HABITS.* This well-known bird — the common Birch Partridge of the British Provinces, the Partridge of New England and the West, and the Pheasant of the Middle States — is found throughout the wooded portions of eastern North America, from Georgia to Nova Scotia, and from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains. Richardson, in his description of its habits in the *Fauna Boreali-Americana*, states that he met with it as far north as the 56th parallel of latitude, and mentions, in a note, that Mr. Drummond procured specimens on the sources of the Peace River, in the valley of the Rocky Mountains, in no wise different from those taken on the Saskatchewan. On



*Bonasa umbellus.*

the banks of the latter river it was found very plentiful, frequenting the horse-paths and the cleared spaces about the forts. In winter, when the ground was covered with snow, it occurred in flocks of ten or twelve, perching on trees. These flocks could be approached without difficulty, and several birds successively shot from the same tree without exciting the alarm of the survivors, if the lowest were shot first. When disturbed, like most Grouse they flew off very swiftly, with a loud whirring sound, and to a considerable distance before alighting. The male in spring makes a very singular loud noise, resembling the quick roll of a drum, which is produced by rapid strokes of the

wings, and which may be heard to quite a distance. In the mating-season the male struts about in the presence of the female, in the manner of a Turkey-cock, its wings drooping, its tail erected, and its ruffs displayed.

This Grouse is a constant resident in the district in which it occurs, and, as a general rule, is in no sense migratory, though it is stated by Audubon that in some regions where they are very abundant they perform partial sorties at the approach of autumn. These only occur in mountainous regions in which during the winter months there is an insufficiency of food. These movements have been noticed on the banks of the Ohio and the Susquehanna Rivers. Their journeys occur in the month of October, when they are in the best condition for the table, and they are much sought after. In the spring, those which have escaped return to the regions from which they migrated. Mr. Audubon states that in October, 1820, he observed a large number moving from the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois into Kentucky, many of which were shot, and taken to the Cincinnati market.

This Grouse is found wherever wooded country is to be met with, and is especially fond of the craggy sides of mountains and hills, and the borders of rivers and small streams. They also often occur in considerable numbers in low lands, and were discovered by Mr. Audubon breeding in the thickest cane-brakes of Indiana and Kentucky.

They find in these wooded regions at once the means of food and shelter. In these localities they breed, and there they may usually be seen at all seasons of the year. They are thus to be met with in nearly all the Southern States; being abundant in the Carolinas, in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi, as far to the southwest as Natchez. They are not known to occur in any part of Louisiana. Dr. Newberry did not encounter this bird within the limits of California, but found them very abundant in the wooded portions of the Cascade Mountains and in the Willamette Valley. The Oregon specimens were generally darker than the eastern varieties, but the habits were apparently everywhere the same.

In many important respects the habits of this bird appear to be essentially different from those of the Pinnated Grouse. Unlike that species, it is rarely met with on open plains. Though the food of the two species appears to be very similar, this peculiarity and difference of abode is quite striking. This is more noticeable at the South than in the more northern and western portions of the country, where, however, this species seems to seek, and the *cupido* to avoid, the wooded sections.

They differ, also, in their more solitary disposition, being never seen in groups of more than four or five, and rarely other than singly or in pairs. Wilson observed, while travelling among the mountains of Pennsylvania, that these birds left the woods early in the morning to seek the open path or road to pick up gravel or to glean among the droppings of the horses, and he was thus enabled to supply himself without leaving the path. On the ground they were observed to move with great stateliness, spreading out their broad fan-like tails.

The flight of this Grouse is low, straightforward, and rarely protracted more than a few hundred yards at a time. It is somewhat stiff, and performed with frequent, almost continual, beatings of its wings. When it is flushed from its nest, or is suddenly startled from the ground by a dog, it rises with a loud whirring sound, which noise, however, is not made when the bird rises of its own accord. Its movements on the ground are very stately and graceful, except when it is approached too near, when it runs in a rapid manner, lowers its head, and spreads its tail, and either seeks shelter or takes to flight. When it hides in the bushes, it usually squats and remains close. They are difficult birds to shoot on the wing, the more so that they make sudden and unexpected changes in the direction of their flight. When they light on a tree, they are more readily followed and shot. The prevalent notion that, where several of these birds are in the same tree, several may be procured if you are careful to shoot the lowest one each time, was not verified by Mr. Audubon's experience.

The love-season of the Partridge commences early in March, and is indicated by the drumming of male birds. This sound is produced by the male bird only, who, standing on a fallen log or on an elevated rock in the most retired portion of the woods, lowers his wings, expands his tail, contracts his neck, and seems to inflate his whole body. The tufts of feathers on either side of the neck are elevated, and the bird struts and wheels about in the most pompous manner possible to imagine. After manœuvring in this manner for some time, he begins to strike the sides of his own body with his stiffened wings with short and rapid strokes. These become more and more rapid, until the noise they produce seems continuous. These sounds may be heard at all hours of the day, but more generally early in the morning. The sound thus produced has generally been compared to that produced by beating together two distended bladders. But this gives one a very inadequate idea of the rolling, reverberating, ventriloquistic noise which these birds thus occasion. It is more like the distant and closing reverberations caused by remote thunder, and seems to the listener much nearer than it really is. It may be imitated in several ways, so as even to deceive the bird, and to bring him, in a fatal impulse of jealousy, to the shot of the sportsman.

In the spring these birds feed on the buds of several kinds of trees, especially the birches. In Maine they are particularly fond of the buds of the black birch, which gives to their flesh a peculiar and very agreeable flavor, and from this in certain localities they are known as the Birch Partridge. They also feed largely on the esculent berries of the summer, as raspberries, blueberries, and huckleberries, and in the fall become plump and fat, and are esteemed a great delicacy.

Mr. Audubon states that, as this bird rises from the ground, it utters a cackling note, which it repeats six or seven times, and then emits a lisping whistle, like the cry of some young bird, which is rather remarkable. When



the ground is covered by a fall of light snow, these birds dive into it and conceal themselves, sometimes burrowing through it to the depth of several feet. When pursued, they frequently escape in this manner. Many are taken under the snow; others are snared by nooses, or by means of figure of four traps.

This Grouse is more or less polygamous, and both sexes are somewhat promiscuous in their intercourse. The males only remain with the females until incubation has commenced, and then keep by themselves, unless recalled by the females when their eggs have been taken or destroyed. The males occasionally indulge in severe contests for the possession of the female, but not to the same extent as with the Pinnated Grouse.

The female places her nest in some retired spot, usually on the edge of the woods, or near an opening in it, always on the ground, and often under the shelter of a projecting rock or a fallen log. The nest is very rude and simple, consisting of only a few leaves laid in a depression and not woven together. The eggs are from seven to twelve in number, and are generally of a uniform yellowish-brown color, and are very rarely mottled or spotted. During incubation the Partridge sits very closely, and permits a near approach before she will leave her charge. The young Partridges leave the nest as soon as they are hatched, following their mother, who calls to them with a clucking sound not unlike that of the common domestic Hen. The mother is very devoted, courageous, and wily in defending them. Coming suddenly upon a young brood of Partridges squatted with their mother near the roadside in a woods, my first knowledge of their presence was received from the old bird flying directly at my face, and then tumbling about at my feet with frantic manifestations of distress and imitated lameness. In the mean while the little ones scattered in every direction, and were not to be found. As soon as she was satisfied of their safety, the parent flew to a short distance, and I soon heard her clucking call to them to come to her again. Altogether, it was one of the most striking scenes of parental devotion and well-managed intervention I ever witnessed. When I came upon the mother, she had squatted upon the ground, and the young had taken refuge under her wings.

The males keep apart from the females and the young until the approach of winter, when they reassemble in their search for food. In severe seasons, when the snow lies very deep, especially in Pennsylvania, they are said to feed on the buds of the Mountain Laurel, or some other poisonous shrub which imparts a poisonous character to their flesh. In Maine they have been accused of resorting to apple-orchards and destroying the fruit-buds, thus occasionally causing a serious injury to the prospective harvest. We apprehend there is some foundation for these charges.

Mr. William Street, of Easthampton, who resides on Mount Tom, writes me that he has found this Grouse very numerous in that vicinity. Having lived in a secluded place ten years, and having met with these birds con-

stantly by day and by night, he has been able to note some interesting peculiarities in their habits. The drumming by the male is often made on a stone as well as a log, the same perch being resorted to, when once chosen by a male bird, as long as it lives. In one instance he knew one of these Partridges persistently adhere to its drumming-place, even though the woods had all been cut away and a new road made close by its post. They roost on the ground as well as on trees, when near their home, and just where night overtakes them. They can fly by night as well as by day, when disturbed, as he has often had occasion to notice, having started them up at all hours of the night. They are very local in their habits, and never wander more than a hundred rods from the drumming-place of the male. This spot seems to be the central point around which they live. The young keep with the old birds throughout the fall and winter, and select their own homes in the spring, not far from those of their parents. When a flock is started up, they separate and fly in every direction; but if one sits quietly down and keeps perfectly still, in less than an hour he will see them all coming back, on foot, and all at about the same time.

The eggs of this species measure 1.60 inches in length by 1.15 in breadth. They are usually unspotted and of a uniform dark cream-color, occasionally marked with darker blotches of the same. They are of an elongated oval, pointed at one end.

### ***Bonasa umbellus*, var. *umbelloides*, DOUGLAS.**

#### **THE MOUNTAIN PARTRIDGE.**

*Tetrao umbelloides*, DOUGL. Linn. Trans. XVI, 1829, 148. *Bonasa umbellus*, var. *umbelloides*, BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 925 (appendix). *Bonasa umbelloides*, ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864. *Bonasa umbellus*, AUD. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago, Ac. I, 1869, 287 (Alaska, interior).

**SP. CHAR.** In pattern of coloration exactly similar to *umbellus*, but colors different. Rufous tints almost wholly replaced by gray, the ground-color of the tail always fine light ash. Neck-tufts deep glossy-black.

**HAB.** Rocky Mountains of the United States, and interior of British America, from Alaska (on the Yukon) to Canada, where grading into var. *umbellus*.

**HABITS.** In regard to the habits of this variety we have no information. It was found by Mr. Drummond among the Rocky Mountains, near the sources of the tributaries of the Saskatchewan. He states that those he met with were at least one third smaller than the *umbellus*, had a much grayer plumage and a shorter ruffle. He regarded it as a distinct species from the common Partridge, which he also encountered in the same locality.

Mr. Ridgway met with this variety on the Wahsatch Mountains in October and during the summer. It was known in that locality as the Pine Hen, in distinction from the *T. obscurus*, which was known as the Mountain Grouse.

The eggs of this variety measure 1.62 inches in length by 1.20 in breadth. Their ground-color is a deep uniform cream, darker than in the *umbellus*. They are occasionally marked with dark tints of the same.

**Bonasa umbellus, var. sabini, DOUGLAS.**

**THE OREGON GROUSE.**

*Tetrao sabinus*, DOUGLAS, Trans. Linn. Soc. XVI, 1829, 137. — RICH. F. BOR. Auk II, 1831, 343. — *Tetrao umbellus*, RICH. F. BOR. Auk II, 1831, 342. — NEWELL, Zool. Cal. & Or. Route, Rep. P. R. R. Surv. VI, iv, 1857, 94. *Bonasa sabini*, BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 631. — COOPER & SUCKLEY, 224. — ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864. — *Ib.* Monog. Tetraon. — LORD, Pr. R. A. I. IV, 123 (Br. Col.). — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 89. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Ac. I, 1869, 287 (Alaska coast). — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 540.

SP. CHAR. Similar to var. *umbellus*, but much darker. The rufous tints almost castaneous, and the dusky markings larger. Length, about 18.00; wing, 7.30; tail, 6.70.

HAB. Coast Mountains of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.

The specimens of Ruffed Grouse from the Pacific coast differ very greatly from others in much darker tints of coloration, although the pattern is precisely the same. The upper parts are dark orange-chestnut, mottled with black, the cordate light spots very distinct. The feathers of the breast are strongly tinged with reddish-yellow; those of the sides marked with broad and conspicuous bars of black, instead of the obsolete brown. The under tail-coverts are orange-chestnut, with indistinct bars of black, and an angular terminal blotch of white. All the light brown blotches and edgings of the eastern variety are here dark brown or black. The jugular band between the ruffles is very conspicuously black. Specimens from Eastern Oregon and Washington have dark gray tails, and thus incline toward var. *umbelloides*.

HABITS. The Western Ruffed Grouse was found abundant by Dr. Suckley in the timbered districts throughout Oregon and Washington Territory. Its habits seemed to be identical with those of the eastern birds. Owing to the mildness of the season in the vicinity of Fort Steilacoom, the males commence drumming as early as January, and in February they are heard to drum throughout the night. In the autumn they collect in great numbers in the crab-apple thickets near the salt marshes at the mouths of the rivers emptying into Puget Sound. There they feed for about six weeks on the ripe fruit of the northwestern crab-apple, the *Pyrus rivularis* of Nuttall.

Dr. Cooper also speaks of this Grouse as very abundant everywhere about the borders of woods and clearings. It was common near the forests east of the Cascade Mountains up to the 49th degree. These birds vary in plumage there, a pale-grayish hue predominating. West of the mountains they are all of a very dark brown. There was, however, no perceptible difference in their habits or cries from those of the same bird elsewhere.

Mr. J. K. Lord assigns to this species an extended geographical range west of the Rocky Mountains, — from the borders of California, throughout Oregon and Washington Territories, extending high up on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains, plentiful in all the timbered lands between the Cascades and the rocky ruts along the banks of the Columbia, over the ridge of the Cascades, and down their western slopes to Frazer's River, in all the islands of the Gulf of Georgia, and everywhere on Vancouver Island to its extreme northern end, and on the mainland as far north as latitude 53°. The habits of this Grouse are described as singularly erratic, and its food as varied in its character. In the spring their favorite haunt is in the vicinity of stagnant pools, or in the brush around a marsh in which the wild swamp-crab, the black birch, and the alder grow. In such places they mate, and during the breeding-season are said to be very constant and devoted. During the time of pairing, and at intervals after their young are hatched, the male produces the sound known as drumming. The bird is said to squat on a log or a fallen tree, motionless as though it had no life. Suddenly all the feathers appear as if reversed, the tail is erected, the ruff round its neck stands out stiff and rigid, and the wings droop as if broken. These slowly vibrate, and then produce a sound loud and clear, like the thrum of a double-bass string. Then the wings move with increased rapidity, and the sound becomes a continuous throbbing hum. It then suddenly ceases, and after a few minutes the same performance is repeated.

Mr. Lord also states that he has seen the males of this species fighting furiously during the pairing season. Ruffing up their necks, with their heads and backs almost in a straight line, and with wings dropped, they circle round and round each other, striking and pecking until the vanquished gives in, and the victor mounts upon a log and proceeds to drum furiously.

Their nest is completed about the end of May, and is always placed under a log on the ground, or at the foot of a bush. It is composed of a quantity of dead leaves, lined with dry grasses, bits of moss, and a few feathers.

Mr. Lord adds that he found at least ten nests of this bird in one swamp near the Spokane Prairies. From ten to fourteen eggs was about the average number; they are described as in color of a dirty white, and without any spots or freckles of a darker shade. The chickens at once leave the nest and follow their mother, who calls them with a clucking sound, in the manner of a Hen, covers them when resting, and uses all kinds of feints and stratagems to lure an intruder from her young, fluttering along close to his feet as if her wings were entirely disabled, and then, when her chickens have had time to conceal themselves, suddenly darting off. When frightened, this Grouse rises with a loud rattling sound; but its natural upward movement is noiseless.

After the chickens are old enough, the flock removes to open hillsides where grass-seed, berries, and insects are in abundance. This Grouse never packs, but remains in broods. In the fall, before they begin to feed on the



spruce buds, their flesh is said to be delicious; but after the snow shuts them off from other food they feed on the fir buds, and then their flesh acquires a strong flavor of turpentine.

In the tree this Grouse is not an easy bird to discover; so closely does its plumage resemble the lichen-covered bark that it is difficult to distinguish them, especially as, when alarmed, they crouch down lengthwise with the limb, and thus become concealed.

#### GENUS **LAGOPUS**, VIEILLLOT.

*Lagopus*, VIEILLLOT, Analyse, 1816. (Type, *Tetrao lagopus*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Nasal groove densely clothed with feathers. Tail of sixteen or eighteen feathers. Legs closely feathered to the claws. The northern species snow white in winter.

The Ptarmigans inhabit the northern regions of both hemispheres, and with the Arctic fox and hares, the lemmings, and a few other species, characterize the Arctic zone. They are of rare occurrence within the limits of the United States, though farther north they become abundant. The species all change to white in winter, except *L. scoticus*, which appears to be merely a permanently dark, southern, insular form of *L. albus*. (See Alfred Newton in Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy, July, 1871, pp. 96, 97.)

#### Species and Varieties.

##### A. Tail-feathers always with more or less black.

1. **L. mutus**. Bill small, slender, the length from the nasal groove to the tip decidedly more than the height through the base. Male in winter with a black stripe on the lores.

♂ in summer with uniform black feathers on the breast; autumnal plumage bluish-gray, mottled. *Hab.* Northern Europe . . . var. *mutus*.

♂ in summer without uniform black feathers on the breast. Autumnal plumage orange-rufous. *Hab.* Northern North America; Greenland; Iceland . . . . . var. *rupestris*.

2. **L. albus**. Bill large, stout; the length from the nasal groove less, or not more, than the height through the base. Male in winter without black stripe on lores. *Hab.* Northern Europe and northern North America.

##### B. Tail-feathers entirely pure white.

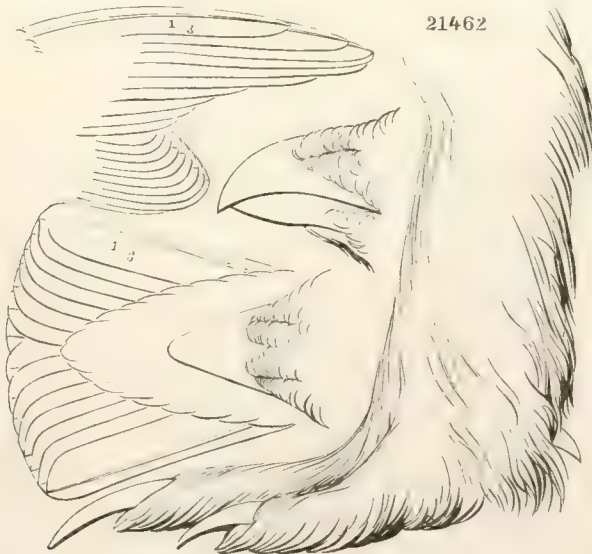
3. **L. leucurus**. Winter plumage wholly white. *Hab.* Alpine summits of the Western mountain-ranges, from Colorado to Oregon and Washington, and north into British America.

**Lagopus albus, AUD.****WILLOW GROUSE; WHITE PTARMIGAN.**

*Tetrao albus*, GMELIN, I, 1788, 750 (Hudson's Bay). — LATH. Ind. Orn. II, 639. *Lagopus albus*, AUD. Syn. 1839, 207. — IB. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 114, pl. cccxix. — BONAP. Am. Phil. III, new ser. p. 393, sp. 313. — GRAY, Gen. B. III. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 633. — BOIE, Isis, 1822, 558. — GRAY, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. III, 47, 1844. — BONAP. Geog. & Comp. List. B. p. 44, No. 288. — ELLIOT, Monog. Tetraon. pl. — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1861, 227. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 80. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Ac. I, 1869, 287. — FINSCH, Abh. Nat. III, 1872, 62 (Alaska). *Tetrao (Lagopus) albus*, NUTTALL, Man. I, (2d ed.,) 1840, 816. ? *Tetrao lagopus*, FORSTER, Phil. Trans. LXII, 1772, 390. *Tetrao saliceti*, SABINE, App. Franklin's Narr. 681. — RICH. App. Parry's 2d Voyage, 347. — AUD. Orn. Biog. II, 1834, 528, pl. exci. — SAB. App. Frank. Narr. p. 681. *Tetrao (Lagopus) saliceti*, SWAINSON, F. Bor. Am. II, 1831, 351. — *Lagopus s.* GOULD. B. Eur. pl. *White Grouse*, PENNANT. *Tetrao lapponicus*, GMEL. Syst. Nat. I, 751, sp. 25. — LATH. Ind. Orn. II, 640, sp. 12. *Tetrao rehusak*, TEMM. Fig. et Gall. III, 225. *Lagopus subalpinus*, NILS. Orn. Suec. I, 307, sp. 139. *Lagopus brachydactylus*, TEMM. Man. Orn. III, 328. — GOULD, B. Eur. pl. cclvi. — GRAY, Gen. B. III. — BONAP. Conspect. List. 44, No. 300.

**SP. CHAR.** Bill very stout. Bill as high as the distance from the nasal groove to its tip. Tail always black, narrowly tipped with white; wing (except upper coverts) pure white.

**Summer.** *Male* (43,505, Fort Anderson, September 8; MacFarlane). Head, neck, and jugulum deep cinnamon-rufous; whole upper parts (except wings) paler, more fulvous



*Lagopus albus*

brown, broadly and closely barred with black. Top of head spotted with black, and the jugulum and neck with scattered bars of the same. Wing, 7.50; bill, .40 from nostril, and .35 deep. *Female* (53,526, Fort Anderson, June, 1865; MacFarlane). Entire plu-

mage (except wings, tail, and legs) fulvous-buff, heavily spotted and barred above, and regularly barred beneath with black. Wing, 7.20; bill, .40 by .40.

*Winter.* Entire plumage, except the tail (which is black with a white tip), immaculate snowy-white; shafts of primaries black. *Male* (34,968, Northwest R., Labrador; D. Smith). Wing, 7.50; bill, .42 by .45. *Female* (50,060, Nulato, Lower Yukon, April 12, 1867; W. H. Dall). Wing, 7.50; bill, .42 by .42.

*Chick* (2,648, Fort Anderson, July, 1864). Prevailing color greenish-buff, tinged with sulphur-yellow on the throat and abdomen, and washed with fulvous on the upper parts. A large oval vertical patch of chestnut-rufous, bordered all round by a black line, which, from the occiput, is continued down the nape in a broad distinct stripe of black. On the upper part of the back this stripe bifurcates, and continues in two broad parallel stripes to the lower part of rump, where they again unite. A black stripe across the wing and one through the eye and auriculars.

*HAB.* Arctic America from Newfoundland to Sitka.

*HABITS.* Richardson regarded this species as an inhabitant of the fur countries from the 50th to the 70th parallel of latitude, being partially migratory within those limits. It was found to breed among the valleys of



*Lagopus albus.*

the Rocky Mountains, on the barren grounds, and along the Arctic coasts. On the approach of winter it collects in flocks, and retires southward as the severity of the weather increases. They remain, however, in considerable numbers as far north as latitude 67° even in the coldest winters. It was found to be tolerably abundant at the 65th parallel all the year, assembling

in vast flocks on the shores of Hudson Bay in the winter time. Mr. Hutchins states that ten thousand of these birds have been captured in a single season at Severn River. Richardson adds that in 1819 these birds made their first appearance at Cumberland House, latitude 54, in the second week of November, and that they returned to the northward again before the beginning of spring. In the winter they are said to shelter themselves in thickets of willows and dwarf birches, on the banks of marshes and lakes, the buds of the smaller shrubs being the principal part of their food at that season. Denuded sandy spots were their favorite resorts in the daytime, but they passed their nights in holes in the snow. When pursued by sportsmen or birds of prey, they often terminate their flight by hastily div-

ing into the loose snow, working their way beneath its surface with considerable celerity. In thick, windy, or snowy weather they were very shy, perching on the taller willows, where it required a sharp eye to distinguish them from flakes of snow. In the summer season they feed chiefly on the berries of the alpine arbutus and other shrubs and plants, which are laid bare by the thaw, and which do not disappear until they are replaced by a new crop. They incubate about the beginning of June, at which time the females moult. The males assume their red-colored plumage as soon as the rocks and eminences become bare, at which time they are in the habit of standing upon large stones, calling in a loud and croaking voice to their mates, which, still in their white wintry garb, are hidden in the snows below. These birds are more usually in motion in the milder light of night than in the broad glare of day.

Captain Blakiston traced this Grouse across the interior from Hudson's Bay to near the Rocky Mountains, and obtained a single specimen near Fort Carlton. It does not come down every winter, however, so far south on the Upper Saskatchewan. Near Lake Winnipeg, at Fort Cumberland, and to the eastward, they are common every winter, and numbers are obtained from the shores of Hudson's Bay. Mr. Ross gives this species as common on the Mackenzie. Mr. Robert MacFarlane found it around Fort Anderson, where, he writes, it was always very numerous in that quarter at all seasons, and generally not difficult of approach. During the breeding-season the males were to be found perched upon trees and stumps in the vicinity of the nest, while the female would rarely leave the latter until almost trodden on. They are also said, by Mr. MacFarlane, to assume their summer plumage earlier than the males, differing in this statement from Dr. Richardson's. Their nest is always on the ground, and consists only of a few decayed leaves placed in a depression. Sometimes other materials, such as hay, moss, feathers, etc., are found. While incubating, the female occasionally sits so close as to allow herself to be caught, rather than leave the nest.

They begin to nest early in June, varying a little with the season, not commencing so soon where the ground at that period was still covered with snow. Eggs taken from the oviduct were almost invariably pure white in color. In one instance an egg taken from the oviduct of a female, June 5, that had previously deposited eight eggs the same season, was covered with coloring matter or marking so soft as to adhere to the fingers when touched. After the female has once begun to lay, Mr. MacFarlane observed that she deposits one egg each day until the whole number has been reached. This varies from eight to ten.

The males were always observed in the immediate vicinity of the nest, and began to assume their summer moult about the 6th of June, most of their necks at that time being already of a reddish-brown color. The nests were always on the ground, and were mere depressions lined with a few soft



materials, generally leaves, occasionally mingled with feathers, hay, etc., the feathers often being their own. The same nest was often made use of in successive seasons. Eggs were found as late as the 24th of June, and the female is supposed to sit about three weeks before hatching. Occasionally eggs were found dropped on the bare ground without any signs of a nest. In one instance the egg was pure white, like one taken from the oviduct. It was found lying on the bare ground, without the least appearance of a nest in its vicinity.

In one instance where a nest was met with, on the banks of Swan River, by Mr. MacFarlane's party, *en route*, the female was almost trodden under foot before she fluttered off, when she at once turned about to face her enemies, spreading her wings and ruffling her feathers as if to attack or frighten them away. In another case a nest containing only one fresh egg, in which the female had but just begun to deposit, was found as late as June 25. Other eggs found June 27 contained very large embryos. Another nest, examined a fortnight later (July 10), had in it ten perfectly fresh eggs. Mr. MacFarlane inferred that this nest had been robbed at an early period of the season. This time she apparently made no attempt at another laying.

In several instances where both birds were present near a nest that was taken, the male bird would make his presence known by giving utterance to very peculiar rough notes, indicative of alarm and of distress at the proceedings. In one instance a nest was found in the midst of a clump of very small stunted willows, within thirty feet of the spot where Mr. MacFarlane's tent was pitched. This was on the 21st of June, but the nest escaped notice until the 22d of July, when the female was almost trodden on as she was sitting on her eggs, where she had probably had her nest during their entire stay. The eggs were warm when taken, and their contents were slightly developed. During the night the male Ptarmigan disturbed the encampment by keeping up a constant utterance of his rough and rather unpleasant notes. In another instance the female fluttered off, calling, and pretending to be badly wounded; while the male bird, in the vicinity, made his near presence known by the loud manner in which he expressed his disapprobation of such proceedings.

In one instance where an Indian had found a nest of this Ptarmigan, which then contained seven eggs, the female was seen, and the notes of the male bird were heard. He placed a snare about the eggs, but on returning to the nest a few hours afterwards, he was surprised to find that six of the eggs had disappeared during his brief absence. He supposed a fox had taken them; but as no egg-shells were left behind, Mr. MacFarlane has no doubt they were removed by the parent birds.

When the young are hatched they follow the parents, both of whom keep about them, and display great courage and devotion whenever there is any occasion, suffering themselves to be very closely approached, and utterly re-

ardless of consequences in their desire to save their young. The latter are very hard to recognize, owing to their close resemblance to the grass, in which they squat, and remain perfectly still.

In September and October of each season these Ptarmigans assemble in large flocks, but during winter seldom more than two or three dozen were ever noticed in single companies. They would often alight and feed in the immediate presence of the men, and would even permit a very near approach. During the winter they were frequently to be met with between Fort Anderson and Fort Good Hope, in especial abundance about the last-mentioned post. As the spring approached, they began to migrate to the north; so that in the summer scarcely a Ptarmigan was to be seen south of Lockhart River, on their usual line of march to that post. In February, 1859, Mr. MacFarlane found them numerous to the very borders of the wooded country, along the banks of the Lower Anderson.

Mr. Donald Gunn states that this Ptarmigan is very seldom to be seen south or west of Lake Winnipeg, but is found in all the country north and east of that lake during the winter season. In the summer they are said to breed around Hudson's Bay, and during the winter to be found along the whole extent of that bay, especially if the winter is mild. During severe winters they go more inland. The males of this species are said by Mr. Gunn to crow morning and evening in the same manner as the Moor-fowl in Scotland, the tone and notes being very similar. The female is said to lay from ten to sixteen eggs, but the largest number taken by Mr. MacFarlane appears to have been ten. These birds are of great service to the Indians, serving as food when larger game fails; and their feathers are also a considerable article of trade, several hundredweight of them being annually sent to London.

Mr. Dall found this Ptarmigan abundant in Alaska, from Fort Yukon to the sea. In winter they feed exclusively on willow buds, a double-handful having often been found in their crops. As soon as the ground was well covered with snow they appeared on the river in coveys among the willow-thickets. They were rather shy, and on an alarm flew immediately, but without noise. They made regular paths along the banks of the river among the willows, along which they always ran. The Indians took advantage of these to snare them, and caught them by hundreds. They were abundant in the fall and midwinter. In February they gathered in immense flocks, and disappeared, no one could tell where, returning about the middle of March as suddenly as they had gone away, remaining a few weeks, then resorting to the mountains and open country to breed. In 1867 they disappeared February 15 and returned April 1, leaving for the mountains May 3. The following year they left February 10, returned March 21, and left for the mountains April 28, going and coming in large flocks. They begin to moult about the middle of April, the feathers of the head, edges of wings, and upper tail-coverts, changing first. At this time

the capillaries in the skin of the abdomen become engorged with serous fluid, and give to the bird a disgusting appearance. Mr. Dall obtained eggs in an open tundra near the mouth of the Yukon in the latter part of June. The female defended her nest bravely, and rather than desert her eggs allowed herself to be torn to pieces by a dog.

Mr. Bannister was also struck with the strong attachment shown to each other by both sexes during the breeding-season. He has known the male bird to sacrifice his own life, rather than desert his wounded mate. He mentions them as common at St. Michaels and the adjoining mainland during the greater part of the year, but especially abundant in the spring, when they are found singly or in pairs all over the country. In the fall and winter they kept more to the thickets of willows. The greater part of them were supposed to have gone into the wooded district of the interior for better shelter and more abundant food.

The eggs of this species vary considerably in length and breadth; they average about 1.85 inches in length and 1.20 in breadth, and are oval in shape, one end a little less obtuse than the other. They are all beautifully variegated and marked with bold confluent blotches of a dark claret color, upon a ground of a deep cream tinged with a reddish shading.

### **Lagopus mutus, var. rupestris, LEACH.**

#### **ROCK PTARMIGAN.**

*Tetrao rupestris*, GMELIN, Syst. Nat. I, 1788, 751 (based on Rock Grouse of Pennant). — LATHAM, Ind. Orn. II, 1799, 312. — SABINE, Suppl. Parry's First Voyage, page cxcv. — RICHARDSON, Append. Parry's Second Voyage, 348. — AUD. Orn. Biog. IV, 1838, 483, pl. cclxviii. *Lagopus rupestris*, LEACH, Zool. Misc. II, 290. — BON. List, 1838. — AUD. Syn. 298. — IB. BIRDS AMER. V, 1842, 122, pl. ccc. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 635. — ELLIOT, Monog. Tetraon. pl. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 92. — DALL & BANNISTER, Tr. Chicago Ac. I, 1869, 287. *Tetrao (Lagopus) rupestris*, SWAINS. F. Bor. Am. II, 1831, 354, pl. lxiv. *Attagen rupestris*, REICH. Av. Syst. Nat. 1851, page xxix. *Rock Grouse*, PENNANT, Arctic Zool. II, 312. *Lagopus islandorum*, FAB. Prod. der Island. Orn. page 6. — GRAY, Gen. IB. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. III, 47, 1844. *Tetrao lagopus islandicus*, SCHLEG. Rev. Crit. des Ois. d'Eur. p. 76. *Tetrao islandicus*, BREHM, Eur. Vog. II, 448. *Lagopus reinhardti*, BREHM. *Lagopus groenlandicus*, BREHM, Vögel-fang, p. cclxiv, note. ? *Tetrao lagopus*, SABINE, E. Suppl. Parry's First Voyage, p. cxcvii. — SABINE, J. Franklin's Jour. 682. — RICH. App. Parry's Second Voyage, 350. *Tetrao (Lagopus) mutus*, RICH. F. B. A. II, 1831, 350. *Tetrao mutus*, AUD. Orn. Biog. V, 1839, 196. *Lagopus mutus*, GRAY, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. 1867, 91 (Ft. Resolution and Ft. Simpson). *Lagopus americanus*, AUD. Syn. 1839, 207, B. Am. V, 1842, 119, pl. ccc. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 637.

SP. CHAR. Bill slender; distance from the nasal groove to tip (.35) greater than height at base (.27). In summer the feathers of back black, banded distinctly with yellowish-brown and tipped with white. In winter white, the tail black; the male with a black bar from bill through eye. Size considerably less than that of *L. albus*. Length, about 14.50; wing, 7.50; tail, 4.50.

*Female* in summer (44582, Barren Grounds, June 29, 1864; R. MacFarlane). Wings (except upper coverts) and legs white; tail (except intermediate), black, narrowly tipped with white. Rest of plumage light ochraceous or buff, some feathers tipped with white, and all with broad transverse bars of black, this color prevailing on the dorsal region. On the lower surface the buff bars exceed the black ones in width. Wing, 7.20; tarsus, 1.15; middle toe, .90; bill, .35 by .27.

HAB. Arctic America.

The *L. mutus* of Europe appears to differ only in its summer and autumnal plumages from the present form, and is then only distinguished by the uniformly black feathers on the breast in the former, and the bluish cast in the latter stage. Those in the winter plumage that we have examined are absolutely identical in size, proportions, and color with the American birds.

**HABITS.** According to Hutchins, this Ptarmigan is numerous at the two extremes of Hudson's Bay, but does not appear at the middle settlements of York and Severn except in very severe seasons, when the Willow Grouse are scarce; and Captain Sabine informed Richardson that they abounded on Melville Island, latitude 75°, in the summer. They arrived there in their snow-white winter dress about the 12th of May. By the end of the month the females had begun to assume their colored plumage, which was completed by the first week in June, when the change in the plumage had only just commenced in the males. Some of the latter were found as late as the middle of June in their unaltered winter plumage. This Grouse was also found on the Melville peninsula and the Barren Grounds, rarely going farther south, even in the winter, than latitude 53° in the interior, but, on the coast of Hudson's Bay, descending to latitude 58°, and in severe seasons still farther to the southward. In its general manners and mode of living it is said to resemble the *albus*, but does not retire so far into the wooded country in the winter. At that season it frequents the more open woods on the borders of lakes, especially in the 65th parallel, but the bulk of this species remains on the skirts of the Barren Grounds. They incubate in June.

Mr. MacFarlane found this species breeding about Fort Anderson, and on the Barren Grounds east of the Horton River. They nest, in a similar manner to *L. albus*, on the ground, placing the materials in a depression on the ground, and using hay, withered leaves, and a few feathers, and making a rather loose, ill-arranged nest. This is usually placed on an open common, sometimes near the banks of a small stream. They were more early in their breeding than the *albus*, as young Ptarmigans of a goodly size are mentioned as having been seen June 30. The eggs ranged from four to eight in number.

The female sits very close, and rather than leave will sometimes suffer herself to be taken by the hand. In one instance when a nest was approached, the female crouched as much as possible, in the hope that she might not be noticed, which would have happened had not one of the party observed her eye. Her summer plumage was almost exactly of the same



color with the soil, and hardly distinguishable from it. The man was within three feet, and, making a swoop, caught her on the nest.

Excepting in 1862, Mr. MacFarlane did not meet with any of this species west of the Swan River, on his various journeys to Franklin Bay. Every season, almost immediately on leaving the woods fringing Swan River, birds began to be seen as far as and all along the Arctic coast. Although constantly found feeding in large numbers on the Barrens, it was always difficult to find their nests. They were most numerous between Horton River and Franklin Bay, and were frequently seen standing singly, or feeding on the ground, or an occasional pair might be seen, but it was seldom any number were observed in company.

Mr. Dall states that this species was not uncommon in the Romanzoff Mountains, northwest of Fort Yukon, but did not know of its being found farther south or west. It was obtained by S. Weston at Fort Yukon, and among the mountains by Mr. McDougal.

The eggs of this species closely resemble those of *L. albus*, but are somewhat smaller in size. They measure 1.63 inches in length by 1.18 in breadth, varying slightly in size. Their ground is a deep reddish cream-color, nearly covered by large blotches of a reddish-chestnut, giving a beautifully variegated effect to the whole.

### **Lagopus leucurus, SWAINSON & RICHARDSON.**

#### **WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN.**

*Tetrao (Lagopus) leucurus*, SW. & RICH. F. B. A. II, 1831, 356, pl. lxiii. — NUTT. MAN. ORN. II, 1834, 612. — IB. I, (2d ed.,) 1840, 820. — DOUGL. TR. LINN. SOC. XVI, 146. *Tetrao leucurus*, AUD. ORN. BIOG. V, 1839, 200, pl. ccccxviii. *Lagopus leucurus*, AUD. SYN. 1839. — IB. B. AM. V, 1842, 125, pl. cccii. — GRAY, GEN. III. — BAIRD, BIRDS N. AM. 1858, 637. — BON. COMP. LIST. 441, No. 291. — ELLIOT, P. A. N. S. 1864. — IB. MONOG. TETRAON. pl. — GRAY, CAT. BRIT. MUS. V, 1867, 93. — COOPER, ORN. CAL. I, 1870, 542.

SP. CHAR. *Male? winter* (4,578, Fort Halkett, Liard's River). Entirely pure white, including the tail. Wing, 6.70; tarsus, 1.00; middle toe, 1.00; bill, .35 by .29.

*Summer*. Wings, tail, abdomen, crissum, and legs immaculate snowy-white. Ground-color of rest of plumage grayish-white on head and neck and ashy-buff on other portions, finely and rather sparsely sprinkled with black,—more in form of ragged transverse bars anteriorly and on sides. (♀, 16,002, Camp Skagitt, N. W. B., August 16; C. B. Kennerly.)

HAB. Alpine summits of the Western mountains, from lat. 39° in the Rocky Mountains north into British America, and west to the Cascades of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.

HABITS. This species was first procured by Mr. Drummond, and described by Swainson in the "Fauna Borealis." Five specimens were taken on the Rocky Mountains in the 54th parallel, and another, by Mr. MacPherson, on the same chain, nine degrees farther north. They were said to have all the

habits of the other Ptarmigans, and to inhabit the snowy peaks near the mouth of the Columbia, as well as the lofty ridges of the Rocky Mountains.

We have but little reliable information in regard to the habits and distribution of this species. It seems to be confined entirely to the range of the Rocky Mountains, and to be found only among their highest points, occurring at least as far to the south as Cochetope Pass, in latitude 39°, and extending north to an undetermined extent. Specimens were procured in 1858 by Captain R. B. Marcy, on his march from Fort Bridger, in Utah, across the Rocky Mountains to Santa Fé. They were met with near the summit of the mountains not far from Cochetope Pass.

Mr. Charles E. Aiken writes me that he has been informed that this bird is common on Snowy Range, in Colorado Territory. He was informed by an old miner, who claimed to have met with these birds breeding near the top of the range in June, that their nest, composed of leaves and grass, is placed on the ground among bushes on hillsides; that the eggs are fourteen in number, of a light bluish-brown, marked and spotted with a darker shade of brown.

Mr. J. A. Allen (Am. Nat., June, 1872) mentions finding, among the snow-fields of the higher parts of the mountains of Colorado, this Grouse as one of the essentially Arctic species that were not met with below the region of snow. The Ptarmigans were quite common, and in the winter descend into the timbered land, where a great number are killed by the miners for food.

An egg, given to Mr. Allen as a genuine egg of this species, was taken on Mount Lincoln, Colorado, by Mr. Arthur Meade. It is of an oblong-oval shape, and measures, as well as its imperfect condition permitted its length to be estimated, about 1.80 inches by 1.20 in breadth. Its ground is a deep ochraceous cream-color, marked with small rounded spots of a deep chestnut. These are pretty uniformly sprinkled over the surface. Except in size, it bears a close resemblance to the eggs of the European *Tetrao urogallus*.

FAMILY **PERDICIDÆ**. — THE PARTRIDGES.

CHAR. Nostrils protected by a naked scale. The tarsi bare and scutellate.

The *Perdidae* differ from the Grouse in the bare legs and naked nasal fossæ. They are much smaller in size and more abundant in species. They are widely distributed over the surface of the globe, a large number belonging to America, where the subfamilies have no Old World representatives whatever. The head seldom, if ever, shows the naked space around and above the eye, so common in the *Tetraonidæ*; and the sides of the toes scarcely exhibit the peculiar pectination formed by a succession of small scales or plates.

SUBFAMILY **ORTYGINÆ**.

CHAR. Bill stout, the lower mandible more or less bidentate on each side near the end.

The *Ortyginæ* of Bonaparte, or *Odontophorinæ* of other authors, are characterized as a group by the bidentation on either side of the edge of lower mandible, usually concealed in the closed mouth, and sometimes scarcely appreciable. The bill is short, and rather high at base; stouter and shorter than what is usually seen in Old World Partridges. The culmen is curved from the base; the tip of the bill broad, and overlapping the end of the lower mandible. The nasal groove is short. The tail is rather broad and long.

## Synopsis of Genera found in the United States.

*a. Head without crest.*

**Ortyx.** Tail not much more than half the wings; outstretched feet reaching beyond the tail.

*b. Head with a crest of a few long narrow, keel-shaped feathers.*

**Oreortyx.** Crest-feathers very long, linear; tail scarcely more than half the wings; bill stout; claws blunt, the lateral not reaching the base of the middle claw. Toes of the outstretched foot reaching beyond the tail.

**Lophortyx.** Crest-feathers widening much terminally, and recurved at the ends. Tail nearly or quite as long as wings. Bill rather small. Claws acute, the lateral reaching to the base of middle one. Toes not reaching the tip of tail.

*c. Crest soft, full, and tufted; composed of short, broad, depressed feathers.*

**Callipepla.** Crest springing from the crown. Wing-coverts normal. Tail stiffened, nearly as long as the wings. Claws small, acute; outstretched feet not reaching the tip of tail.

**Cyrtonyx.** Crest occipital. Wing-coverts greatly developed. Tail very small and soft; half as long as the wings. Toes short; claws very long, blunted; outstretched feet reaching much beyond the tip of the tail.

All the North American Quails, except *Cyctonyx montana*, have the inner tertiaries edged internally with whitish or buff, forming a conspicuous line on each side of the rump when the wings are closed.

### GENUS **ORTYX**, STEPHENS.

*Ortyx*, STEPHENS, Shaw's Gen. Zool. XI, 1819. (Type, *Totanus virginianus*, L.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill stout. Head entirely without any crest. Tail short, scarcely more than half the wing, composed of moderately soft feathers. Wings normal. Legs developed, the toes reaching considerably beyond the tip of the tail; the lateral toes short, equal, their claws falling decidedly short of the base of the middle claw.

The genus *Ortyx* embraces numerous species, more or less resembling the well-known Bobwhite of the United States. They are chiefly confined to Mexico, Central America, and the West India Islands. North America and the West India Islands contain but one species, and this is

so exceedingly variable in plumage that it is only at extreme points of its range that differences acquire sufficient constancy to be considered worthy of especial notice. The regions of its extremes of variation are the northeastern, southeastern, and southwestern limits of its range; the modifications attaining in Cuba and in Texas sufficient value to have been deemed of specific importance. But comparing even the three extremes of plumage, the differences are found to consist only in a varying amount of the several colors, specimens from intervening regions forming the connecting links.



*Ortyx virginianus*.

### Species and Varieties.

**O. virginianus.** Head longitudinally striped, with a dark superior and lateral stripe, a light superciliary stripe (continuing down the side of the neck), and a light gular patch; these stripes blackish and pure white in the male, and rusty and ochraceous in the female. Above mottled with rusty and grayish; the latter prevailing posteriorly, the former anteriorly. Upper part of the rump, scapulars, and upper wing-coverts more or less blotched with black. Beneath white, with transverse, somewhat V-shaped bars of black; sides striped with rufous; lower tail-coverts rufous, with black medial arrow-head, and both webs tipped with roundish spots of rusty white.



Black gular collar of the male .50, or less, in width.

Reddish tints prevailing; these nearly continuous on the upper parts, where the mottlings are minute. Distinct black blotches on the scapulars, tertials, and upper part of rump. Wing, 4.25 (Florida, Southern Illinois, Missouri, etc.) to 4.80 (northeastern United States). *Hab.* Eastern Province of the United States; Jamaica?

*var. virginianus*

Grayish tints prevailing; no continuous color on the upper parts, where the mottlings are coarse and general. No distinct black blotches on the scapulars, etc. Gular black collar narrower. Wing, 4.10 to 4.50. *Hab.* Plains from Texas to Kansas (white-tailed quail into *virginianus*) . . . . . *var. texanus*.

Black gular collar much more than .50 in width.

Black markings predominating in the male. Female hardly distinguishable from that of *var. texanus*. Wing, 4.10. *Hab.* Cuba.

*var. cubanensis*.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Ortyx virginianus*, var. *virginianus*, BONAP**

#### **QUAIL; PARTRIDGE; BOB-WHITE.**

*Tetrao virginianus*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 277, 16 (female?). — GMELIN, I, 1788, 761. *Perdix virginiana*, LATH. Ind. Orn. II, 1790, 650. — WILSON, Am. Orn. VI, 1812, 21, pl. xlvii. — BODDLEY'S Cab. I, 1839, 37, pl. iv. — AUD. Orn. Biog. I, 1831, 388; V, 1839, 564, pl. lxxvi. *Perdix (Ortyx) virginiana*, BONAP. Obs. Wils. 1825, No. 203. *Ortyx virginianus*, JARDIN, Nat. Library Birds. IV, Game Birds, 191, pl. x. — BON. List, 1838. — AUD. Syn. 1839, 199. — IB. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 59, pl. cclxxxix. — GOULD, Mon. Odont. pl. i. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 640. — NEWTON, Ibis, I, 255 (Santa Cruz: introduced). — BRYANT, B. Pr. VII, 1859 (Bahamas: introduced). — SCLATER, P. Z. S. 1861, 80 (Jamaica). — MARCH, P. A. N. S. 1863, 303 (Jamaica). — MAX. Cab. J. VII, 1858, 444. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 75. — FOWLER, Am. Nat. III, Dec. 1869, 535 (habits). *Perdix (Colinia) virginiana*, NUTTALL, Man. I, 1832, 646. *Tetrao marilandicus*, LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1766, 277, 18. — GMELIN, I, 1788, 761, 17. *Perdix marilandica*, LATHAM, Ind. Orn. II, 1790, 650. *Tetrao minor*, BARTRAM, Travels, 1791, 290 bis. *Perdix borealis*, VIEILLON, Nouv. Dict. — IB. Galerie, II, 44, pl. ccxiv. *Ortyx borealis*, STEPH., Shaw's Zool. XI, 1819, 377. *Virginia Partridge*, LATHAM, Syn. II, II, 777. *Ortyx castaneus*, GOULD, P. Z. S. X, 182. — IB. Mon. Odont. (A somewhat melanistic plumage, occasionally seen in specimens from Iowa, Illinois, etc.?)

**SP. CHAR.** Forehead, and line through the eye and along the side of the neck, with chin and throat, white. A band of black across the vertex, and extending backwards on the sides, within the white, and another from the maxilla beneath the eye, and crossing on the lower part of the throat. The under parts are white, tinged with brown anteriorly; each feather with several narrow, obtusely V-shaped bands of black. The forepart of back, the side of the breast, and in front just below the black collar, of a dull pinkish-red. The sides of body and wing-coverts brownish-red; the latter almost uniform, without indication of mottling. Scapulars and upper tertials coarsely blotched with black, and edged internally with brownish-yellow. Top of head reddish; the lower part of neck, except anteriorly, streaked with white and black. Primary quills unspotted brown. Tail ash. *Female* with the white markings of the head replaced by brownish-yellow; the black ones with brownish.

<sup>1</sup> *Ortyx virginianus*, var. *cubanensis*. *Ortyx cubanensis*, "GOULD." — GRAY & MITCH. Gen. III, 514. *Ortyx*, sp. 2. — GOULD, Mon. Odont.

*Young.* Head ashy, with a narrow post-ocular white stripe, and the crown spotted with black; throat whitish. Beneath pale dingy-ashy, with whitish shaft-streaks, and without black bars or other markings. Above reddish or olivaceous drab, the feathers with whitish shaft-streaks, and a large black spot, mostly on upper web.

*Chick.* Head dingy buff; an auricular dusky elongated spot, and a vertical patch of chestnut-rufous, widening on the occiput.

Length, 10.00; wing, 4.70; tail, 2.85.

*Hab.* Eastern United States to the high Central Plains; Devil's River, Texas?

Specimens from Missouri and Southern Illinois are intermediate between the typical *virginianus* of the Northeastern States and Florida examples,<sup>1</sup> which approach in every respect, except the broad jugular collar, the var. *cubanensis*. The size is scarcely greater, — the range in Florida birds being wing 4.10 to 4.30, while the average of Missouri and Southern Illinois series is about 4.25; again, in northern and eastern specimens the wing is 4.70 to 4.80. In colors, Southern Illinois and Florida birds are also very similar; but in Florida there is less tendency to black blotches on scapulars, etc., while in specimens from the southern part of the peninsula the bill is appreciably larger. From the plains of Kansas specimens are intermediate between these Illinois birds and the var. *texanus*.



*Ortyx virginianus.*

A pair of Quails from Jamaica, probably derived from Continental parents, are less different from United States specimens than are those from Cuba or Texas. In size they are like the former, and have also an equally large bill; the male, however, is not darker beneath than Southern specimens of *virginianus*, while the female is absolutely undistinguishable in color from examples of that race from the Middle States.

**HABITS.** The present species, known in New England and in certain other parts of the country as the Quail, and in the Middle and Southern States as the Partridge, — either of which names, belonging to other and quite different birds, is inappropriate, — is found throughout the eastern portion of North America from Florida to Maine, and from the Atlantic to Texas on the south and to the Central Plains. Partially successful attempts have been

<sup>1</sup> The Florida bird has been lately characterized as var. *floridanus* by Dr. Cones, in his Key to North American Birds.

made to introduce it in Utah, and its area promises to extend much farther west than its original limits. This species has also been acclimated in Jamaica, and now abounds in all parts of that island. There they are said, by Mr. March, to make no nest, but to lay on the ground, in tufts of grass-roots or under clumps of bushes, usually from twelve to twenty eggs. These are smaller than with us, measuring 1.25 inches by an inch. Mr. March adds that, during incubation, the male may usually be found sitting on a low branch in the vicinity of the nest, but does not assist in incubation.

The Quail has also been introduced into the island of St. Croix, and is now very common in almost every part of it, being especially abundant in the grass lands of the southwestern part. Their habits appear to be somewhat modified by their place of abode, as Mr. Newton has several times seen birds of this species fly up from the ground when flushed, and perch upon trees. He also states that, so far as he could find, their nest is never covered over, as described by some writers, but consists merely of a shallow hole scraped in the ground, in which is deposited a little dried grass or "trash," the leaves of the sugar-cane. It is often placed to leeward of a protecting cane "stool."

This bird is probably found in all the New England States, though its presence in Maine is not certain, and, if found there at all, is only met with in the extreme southwestern portion. It is also rare in Vermont and New Hampshire, and only found in the southern portions. It is not given by Mr. Boardman, nor by Professor Verrill. Farther west it has a more northern distribution, being found in Northern New York and in Southern Canada. Mr. McIlwraith gives it as resident in the neighborhood of Hamilton.

In many parts of Massachusetts the Quail has become a very rare bird, owing to the ravages caused by sportsmen and the severity of winters, heavy falls of snow being frequently particularly fatal to them.

The Quails are not migratory, rarely moving to any extent from the spot where they were hatched, even in quest of food, and are easily affected by scarcity of food or by the severity of the winter season. In heavy falls of snow they frequently huddle together on the ground, and allow themselves to be buried in the drifts. If the snow is light, they can easily extricate themselves, and run over its surface in quest of berries and the seeds of shrubs; but if the fall be followed by a partial thaw, and a crust forms, the birds are made prisoners within its impenetrable cover, and miserably perish of hunger. In the severe winter of 1866 and 1867, large numbers of Quails thus perished throughout all parts of Massachusetts. When the snow melted, they were found, in numerous instances, crowded close together and embedded in the frozen drifts.

Unlike most birds of this family, the American Quail never collects in large flocks, but usually moves in small family groups, varying in number from ten to thirty, but too often reduced to a mere remnant by the inroads of the sportsman. When there are two broods in a season, the second brood

unites with the first, and, if unmolested, they keep together until the spring, under the guidance of the parents. In the mating-season they usually separate into pairs, though occasionally a male will associate with more than a single female, in which case their joint product is united in the same nest. In the spring of 1850 I found one of the nests which contained no less than thirty-two eggs. The nest was placed on the side of a hill, in an open pasture, within a few rods of the main street, and in the midst of the principal village in Hingham. It was comparatively small, composed of coarse stems of grass, arched at the top, with the entrance on one side, and the eggs were promiscuously piled one upon another. The latter were removed for the purpose of ascertaining the exact number, but very carefully replaced; yet the parent birds deserted them, as they are said always to do if their eggs are handled. An attempt was made to hatch the eggs under a common Hen, but it proved unsuccessful. As the nest was in so exposed a place, it is quite possible that its abandonment by the parent may have been occasioned by other causes than our touching the eggs.

These birds are always found in grounds more or less open, preferring those in which there is abundance of low trees and clusters of shrubs in which they can shelter themselves, on the edges of woods, where they occasionally hide or roost on low branches near the ground. Their favorite food is seeds of various plants, and berries; and in the fall of the year, or late in summer, they feed largely on grasshoppers, and on this food they thrive and become very fat. They are also very fond of buckwheat, corn, and all the kinds of grain. In confinement they eat beechnuts, acorns, and other kinds of nuts, if broken for them. In villages where they are not molested they become very tame, freely approach the barnyards to feed with the poultry, and will even come at the call of their friends and pick up food thrown to them. This is especially noticeable in Florida, where the representatives of the small race of the species found there are very numerous and remarkably confiding.

The Quail is esteemed a great delicacy as an article of food, and is sought for the market by means of traps, nets, and various kinds of snares, and by sportsmen with the gun and dogs. It is naturally unsuspicious, is easily approached, and in the thickly settled parts of the country its ranks are already greatly thinned. It is gradually disappearing from New England, and is now very rare in large tracts where it was once quite abundant. In some localities they have only been retained by the importations of others from a distance. They are of gentle disposition, are apparently much attached to each other both in the conjugal and in the parental relations, and always keep closely together in the small flocks associating together. In the fall the old birds remain with their offspring of the season, and direct the movements of their family. They always keep close together, by day as well as by night, roost on the ground under the shelter of bushes in a circle, their bodies closely impacted, and their heads forming the exterior. This conduces alike to their safety and to their warmth.



Late in April or early in May they construct their nests, always on the ground, usually under the protection of some cluster of bushes, in a depression. It is often on the slope of a small eminence. It is very simple, the materials loosely put together, and wholly of coarse stubble or straw. All that I have seen have been arched over at the top, and with a partially covered entrance; but I am told that it is as often open as covered. The eggs are spoken of in the books as from fifteen to twenty. I have never found less than twenty-four, and from that number to thirty-two. I think that each female lays but about eight, and that several females make use of the same nest, — never less than two, nor more than four. But this opinion is conjectural rather than ascertained. They have two broods in a season, the second in August, at which time the male is engaged in leading the first brood, of which he takes charge when they are hardly half grown. He is a courageous, watchful, and devoted guardian. Once as I was rapidly descending a path on the side of a hill, among a low growth of scrub-oak I came suddenly upon a covey of young Quail, feeding on blueberries, and directly in the path. They did not see me until I was close upon them, when the old bird, a fine old male, flew directly towards me and tumbled at my feet as if in a dying condition, giving at the same time a shrill whistle, expressive of intense alarm. I stooped and put my hand upon his extended wings, and could easily have caught him. The young birds, at the cry of the parent, flew in all directions; and their devoted father soon followed them, and began calling to them in a low cluck, like the cry of the Brown Thrasher. The young at this time were hardly more than a week old, and seemed to fly perfectly well to a short distance. The female was nowhere to be seen, but may have been previously killed, or may have been already in her second incubation at that early stage. The young run as soon as they are hatched, and from the first aid their flight with their wings; when pursued, I have never known them to squat in the manner of the Ruffed Grouse, but rather to hide themselves in thick bushes or tufts of grass, running from these if discovered.

The male bird has a loud, clear, and very distinctive whistle, which in New England is interpreted as *No more wet*, or, if his utterance is more hurried and excited, as *More wet*; and there are those who still attach to these utterances a meteorological significance. In other parts of the country this cry is supposed to be *Ah Bob-white*, or *Bob-white*, and the birds are not unfrequently called Bob-Whites, a name suggested by Professor Baird as a good specific designation. Their note when calling their young brood is very different, and is a low twitter, suggestive of affection, caution, and gentle care. It is soft and subdued, and would readily escape notice.

They make a loud whirring sound when they take to flight, but they rarely fly to any distance, even when most alarmed, as their flight is somewhat laborious. They often escape by running on the ground, especially when they are not suddenly startled.

Mr. Audubon states that at the West this bird performs occasional migrations towards the southeast in October, in the manner of the Wild Turkey; but I cannot find that others have noticed this occurrence. In the Southern and Western States, where this species is very plentiful, they are taken in immense numbers in large nets, into which they are cautiously and slowly driven by a party of hunters.

This species, with proper pains, may be easily raised in confinement, induced to breed, and trained into a condition of partial domestication. Rev. Dr. Bachman, of Charleston, S. C., succeeded in obtaining, by hatching under a Bantam Hen, a brood of young Quails. Confining them with their foster-mother for a few days, they were soon taught to follow her like young chickens. They were fed at first on curds, but soon began to eat cracked Indian-corn and millet. They were permitted to stray at large in the garden, one wing of each having been shortened. They became very gentle, and were in the habit of following Dr. Bachman through his house, seating themselves on the table at which he was writing, occasionally, in play, pecking at his hands or running off with his pen. At night they nestled in a coop in the garden. Although these pets had no opportunity of hearing any other sounds than those of the poultry, the male birds commenced in the spring their not unmusical note of *Bob-white*, at first low, but increasing in loudness, until they were heard through the whole neighborhood. Their notes were precisely like those of the wild birds. As the spring advanced the males became very pugnacious, and continued contests took place among themselves, as well as with the Pigeons and the poultry that intruded on their premises. Their eggs were placed under a Hen and hatched out. The experiment went no further, but was quite sufficient to demonstrate the possibility of their domestication.

Wilson relates that in one instance a female of this species set upon and hatched out the eggs of the common Hen. For several weeks after, his informant occasionally surprised her in various parts of the plantation with her brood of chickens, on which occasion she exhibited every indication of distress and alarm, and practised her usual manœuvres for their preservation. She continued to lead them about until they were larger than herself, and their manners had all the shyness and timidity and alarm of young Quails.

Mr. Allen states (Am. Nat., July, 1872) that this species has been recently introduced into the Great Salt Lake Valley, and in 1871 was giving promise of multiplying rapidly and becoming thoroughly naturalized, young birds having been raised in the summer of 1871.

The eggs of this species are of a pure, brilliant white color, sharply pointed at one end, and obtusely rounded at the other. They average about 1.35 inches in length by one inch in breadth.

***Ortyx virginianus*, var. *texanus*, LAWRENCE.**

*Ortyx texanus*, LAWRENCE, *Ann. N. Y. Ly.*, VI, April, 1853, 1. — BATES, *Birds N. Am.* 1865, *CH.*, pl. LIII. — DE MEUSE, *B. H. Birds*, 22, pl. XXX. — DRESSER, *Ibis*, 1866, 27 (S. E. Texas; breeds). — GRAY, *Cat. Brit. Mus.* V. 1867, 75. — HEERM. X, c. 18.

**SP. CHAR.** General appearance that of *O. virginianus*. Chin, throat, forehead, and stripe over the eye, white. Stripe behind the eye, continuous with a collar across the lower part of the throat, black. Under parts white, with zigzag transverse bars of black. Above pale brownish-red, strongly tinged with ash, the feathers all faintly though distinctly mottled with black; the lower back, scapulars, and tertials much blotched with black, the latter edged on both sides, and, to some extent, transversely barred with brownish-white. Secondaries with transverse bars of the same on the outer web. Wing-coverts coarsely and conspicuously barred with blackish. Lower part of neck, except before, streaked with black and white.

*Female* with the white of the head changed to brownish-yellow; the black of the head wanting. Length, 9.00; wing, 4.35; tail, 2.85.

**HAB.** Southern Texas and Valley of the Rio Grande; Republican River, Kansas; Washita River, Indian Territory.

**HABITS.** This form, which appears to be confined to the southern portion of Texas and to the valley of the Rio Grande River, was first described by Mr. Lawrence in 1853. It has been taken in the neighborhood of San Antonio and on the Nueces River by Captain Pope; on Devil's River by Major William H. Emory; at Fort Clark, on the Pecos River, near Laredo, Texas, at Matamoras, and near New Leon, Mexico, and in other localities, by Lieutenant Couch. According to Mr. Clark, they were very abundant in the valley of the Pecos, as well as in all Southwestern Texas. They were much like the common Virginia Quail in habits as well as in appearance, and to his ear the note of this bird was absolutely identical with that of the common Quail. He has often been a spectator of fights among the males of this variety. To this account Dr. Kennerly adds that he observed them everywhere in considerable numbers from the coast to the headwaters of Devil's River, and also along the Pecos River; but farther west than this none were seen. In the open prairie lands great numbers were always found early in the morning in the road. The close resemblance of its habits to those of the common Partridge was also noticed.

This Quail was first observed by Dr. Heermann in abundance on the Pecos River, although seen some days previous to reaching that point. Their numbers increased as they neared civilization, and near San Antonio they became very plentiful. The call of the male bird is said to consist of two notes repeated at intervals, which are less loud, clear, and ringing than those of the common *Ortyx virginianus*. They feed on the open prairies on grass-seeds, grains, berries, and insects, and, if alarmed, take refuge among the scattered mesquite-trees and clumps of bushes. When hunted, they lie to the dog in the manner of the common species, and, if flushed, fly in a direct line, with a loud whirring noise, caused by the shortness and rapid motions of

the wings. An egg of this bird, found by Dr. Heermann dropped upon the road, was in form and color like that of the common Quail, but smaller.

Mr. Dresser states that in Texas this bird is known as the "Common Partridge" of the country. He found it abundant everywhere in localities suitable to its habits. Near Matamoras it was very common, and was the only species of Quail he noticed there. At Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, where the soil is sandy, the grass scanty, and cacti abundant, he saw only one bevy, but plenty of the *Callipepla squamata*. Near San Antonio only this Quail is found, nor did he observe any other species in travelling towards the northeast. Amongst the Bandera Hills, where he met with the Massena Partridge, he also found the Texan Quail in the valley and near the maize-fields. In travelling from Brownsville to San Antonio the Texan Quail was everywhere abundant except in the sand-deserts. This species was found to be rather irregular as to its breeding-season, as he found young birds near Matamoras early in July, and in September again met with quite young birds near the Nueces River, and Dr. Heermann informed him that he had likewise procured eggs near San Antonio late in September. He obtained a set of their eggs taken near San Antonio, which are very similar to those of the *Ortyx virginianus*, but are slightly smaller.

#### GENUS **OREORTYX**, BAIRD.

*Oreortyx*, BAIRD, Birds of N. Am. 1858. (Type, *Ortyx picta*, DOUGLAS.)

GEN. CHAR. Body stout, broad; bill large; a crest of two or three much elongated linear feathers, springing from the middle of the vertex; tail short, broad, scarcely more than half the wing, rounded, the longest feathers not much exceeding the coverts. Legs developed, the claws extending beyond the tip of the tail; the lateral toes short, the outer claw falling considerably short of the base of the middle. Very similar to *Ortyx*, except in the crest. Sexes similar.

#### **Oreortyx pictus**, BAIRD.

##### PLUMED PARTRIDGE; MOUNTAIN QUAIL.

*Ortyx picta*, DOUGLAS, TRANS. Linn. Soc. XVI, 1829, 143. *Callipepla picta*, GOULD, Mon. Odont. pl. xv. — NEWBERRY, Rep. P. R. R. VI, IV, 1857, 93. — HEERM. X, s. 61. *Ortyx plumifera*, GOULD, Pr. Zool. Soc. V, 1837, 42. — AUD. Syn. 1839, 200. — IB. Birds Amer. V. 1842, 69, pl. cexci. *Perdix plumifera*, AUD. Orn. Biog. V, 1839, 220, pl. ccccxii. *Lophortyx plumifera*, NUTTALL, Man. I, (2d ed.,) 1840, 791. *Oreortyx pictus*, BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 642. — COOPER & SUCKLEY, 225. — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 546.

SP. CHAR. Head with a crest of two straight feathers, much longer than the bill and head. Anterior half of the body grayish-plumbeous; the upper parts generally olivaceous-brown with a slight shade of rufous, this extending narrowly along the nape to the crest. Head beneath the eyes and throat orange-chestnut, bordered along the orbits and



a short distance behind by black, bounded anteriorly and superiorly by white, of which color is a short line behind the eye. Posterior half of the body beneath white; a large

3935 ♂



*Oreortyx pictus.*

central patch anteriorly (bifurcating behind), with the flanks and tibial feathers, orange chestnut-brown; the sides of body showing black and white bands, the former color tinged with chestnut. Under tail-coverts black, streaked with orange-chestnut. Upper tertials margined internally with whitish. *Female* differing only in slightly shorter crest. Length, 10.50; wing, 5.00; tail, 3.25. *Juv.*

Body, generally, pale brown, the feathers of the upper parts minutely barred with darker, and with medial shaft-streaks of blackish; lower plumage plain brown. Breast clear ashy, presenting a well-defined area. Head pale brown, similar to, but lighter than, the body, with a conspicuous vertical and lateral (auricular) broad stripe of dark umber-brown. Feathers of the flanks blackish, broadly bordered with dingy whitish. A short truncated tuft of hair-like feathers on the crown. (Described from figures in Grayson's plate.)

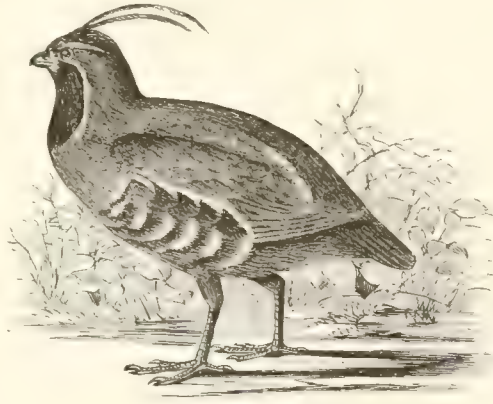
**HAB.** Mountain-ranges of California and Oregon towards the coast. Nevada (eastern slope and foot-hills of the Sierra Nevada; RIDGEWAY).

There are two quite different races of this species, but which, however, pass gradually into each other, and must be considered as merely the extremes of one species. They may be defined as follows:—

1. Var. *pictus*. Pure ash confined to the pectoral region; the russet-brown or rusty-olivaceous of the upper parts covering whole neck and crown; forehead entirely ashy. ♂. Wing, 5.25; tarsus shorter than middle toe (1.27; middle toe, 1.30). *Hab.* Washington Territory, Oregon, and upper coast region of California.
2. Var. *plumiferus*. Pure ash covering whole pectoral region, and crown, nape, and upper part of back; the grayish-olivaceous above confined to the posterior parts. Forehead distinctly whitish. Wing, 5.25; tarsus longer than middle toe (1.27; middle toe, 1.25). *Hab.* Sierra Nevada, and Southern California to Cape St. Lucas.

**HABITS.** The Mountain Quail of California is said by Dr. Newberry to be similar in some respects to the common Partridge of Europe. It is nowhere very common, but occurs sparingly throughout the entire length of California and Oregon to at least the Columbia, and probably beyond it, having much the same range with the *californicus*, though everywhere a rarer bird, and always confined to the hills and mountains. Its habits are similar to those of the other species of this family, but it is less gregarious, and is more shy. It is usually found in the chaparral, where it is put up with difficulty, as it seeks safety by running on the ground rather than by flight. On the first of August, at the base of Lassen's Butte, Dr. Newberry found a solitary hen with a brood of very young chicks. The brood scattered like young Partridges, uttering a piping note like that of young chickens,

and when all was still again were recalled by the mother with a *cluck*, much like the call of the common Hen. The party frequently saw coveys and broods of these birds, the young of which were about half grown, until they reached the plains of Pit River. None were seen in the Klamath Lake basin, the country being too bare and flat. They were again met with among the hills bordering the Willamette Valley, and were found from the Columbia, almost uninterruptedly through the Siskiyou, Calapooza, and Trinity Mountains to California. They are favorite pets with the miners, by whom they are frequently kept in confinement, and not unfrequently command a high price. Their flesh is said to be white and excellent, and fully equal to that of any of the family.



*Oreortyx pictus.*

According to Dr. Cooper, this Quail is very rare in Washington Territory, a few small coveys having been met with about Vancouver, as he was informed by the officers in the garrison. He never succeeded in finding any, though he hunted for them several times with a dog. They became quite common south of the Columbia, towards the prairies of the Willamette. He inquired especially for them in other parts of the Territory, but never heard of them. In California, south of San Francisco, this bird is said to be a rare curiosity to the market-hunters, one or two sometimes occurring among flocks of the California Quail. It is known to them as the Mountain Quail. Dr. Suckley states that the birds in the Willamette Valley were introduced there, and that they are now multiplying rapidly upon the prairies back of Fort Vancouver. With a very little care it is thought the whole of the Territory may become well stocked with them, as the absence of foxes west of the Cascade Mountains and the mild open winters are favorable for their increase.

Dr. Heermann found the birds of this species wild and difficult to procure, flying and scattering at the least symptom of danger, and again calling each other together with a note expressive of great solicitude, much resembling that of a Hen-Turkey gathering her brood around her. During the survey he observed these birds only once, and then but for a few minutes, as they were passing through a deep cañon leading down to Elizabeth Lake. They were seen by the hunters on the mountains surrounding Tejon Valley; but though he went several times in search of them, he obtained none.

Mr. Ridgway met with the Mountain Quail on the foot-hills of the Sierra

Nevada, in the vicinity of Genoa and Carson City, and also in the mountain-ranges lying immediately to the eastward of the Sierra. It was quite rare and very difficult to discover, and when found was generally met with accidentally. He obtained it in November in the thick chaparral at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada. In May he secured a pair in the cedar woods a little to the eastward of Carson City, and in December a flock was met with on the Comstock Mountains near Pyramid Lake. Its call-note when a flock is scattered is almost exactly like that of a Hen-Turkey, only proportionally weaker. When a flock is startled, they utter a confused chuckling note, something like that of the common eastern Quail. The male has a very pleasant crowing-note, which sounds some like *koo-koo-kooe*. The settlers in Nevada say that, previous to the settlement of that country by the whites, this Quail was not found east of the Sierra Nevada, and affirm that they followed the wagon-roads over the mountains, in the rear of trains and wagons, for the purpose of picking up the grain scattered along the road. Mr. Ridgway does not give full credit to the truth of these statements, as he was informed by the Indians at Pyramid Lake, that, within the memory of the oldest members of their tribe, it had always been found in that vicinity.

An egg of this species taken by Dr. Canfield, near Monterey, California, measures 1.45 inches in length by 1.10 in breadth. It is oval in shape; one end is considerably more pointed than the other. It is of a very rich cream-color, with a reddish shading, and unspotted.

#### GENUS **LOPHORTYX**, BONAPARTE.

*Lophortyx*, BONAP. Geog. & Comp. List, 1838. (Type, *Totaco californicus*, SHAW.)

GEN. CHAR. Head with a crest of lengthened feathers springing from the vertex, the shafts in the same vertical plane, and the webs roof-shaped and overlapping each other;

9390 ♂



*Lophortyx californicus*.

the number varies from two to six or more; they widen to the tip, where they are slightly recurved. Tail lengthened and graduated, nearly as long as the wing, composed of twelve stiff feathers. Wings with the tertials not as long as the primaries; the coverts without any unusual development. Claws rather short; the lateral reaching to, but scarcely beyond the base of the middle; the

outstretched toe not reaching the tip of the tail. Sexes very different.

The two North American species of the genus have the anterior half of the body, and the upper parts generally, plumbeous; the feathers of neck above, and on the sides, pointed and margined with black. There is a white bar across the head above, between the eyes, which, passing backwards, is

bordered behind and internally by black; a second commences at the posterior border of the eye, and then borders the black of the chin and throat laterally and behind, the black reaching up to the eye and bordered anteriorly by a white line from eye to bill; belly pale buff, with a large spot in the centre; the flanks streaked with white. The diagnoses of the species are as follows:

Vertex and occiput light smoky olive-brown; forehead whitish; patch in the middle of the belly orange-chestnut; feathers of breast with narrow black edges; sides of body olivaceous-plumbeous. . . . . *L. californicus*.

Vertex and occiput clear chestnut-brown; forehead blackish; patch in middle of belly black; none of the belly-feathers with black edges; sides of body bright chestnut. . . . . *L. gambeli*.

## **Lophortyx californicus, BONAP.**

### **CALIFORNIA QUAIL.**

*Tetrao californicus*, SHAW, Nat. Misc. pl. cccxlv (prior to 1801). *Perdix californica*, LAITHAM, Suppl. Ind. Orn. II, App. 1801, p. lvii. — AUD. Orn. Biog. V, 1839, 152, pl. ccccxiii. — HUTCHINGS, Cal. Mag. II, 1857, 24 (*woodcut of bird and its eggs*). *Ortyx californica*, STEPHENS in Shaw's Zool. XI, 1819, 384. — JARDINE, Game Birds, Nat. Libr. IV, 104, pl. xl. — CUV. R. An. Illustr. ed. Oiseaux, pl. lxiv. — BERNIER, Gardens & Menag. Zool. Soc. II, 29 (*woodcut*). — AUD. Syn. 1839, 199. — Ib. Birds Amer. V, 1842, 67, pl. cccxc. *Perdix (Ortyx) californica*, BONAP. Syn. 1828, 125. *Lophortyx californica*, BONAP. List, 1838. — NUTTALL, Man. I, (2d ed.,) 1840, 789. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 644. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 78. — COOPER & SUCKLEY, 226 (to Columbia River). — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 549. *Callipepla californica*, GOULD, Mohr. Odont. pl. xvi. — REICHENBACH, Av. Syst. 1850, pl. xxvii. — NEWBERRY, Rep. P. R. R. VI, iv, 1857, 92.

Sp. CHAR. Crest black. Anterior half of body and upper parts plumbeous; the wings and back glossed with olive-brown. Anterior half of head above brownish-yellow, the shafts of the stiff feathers black; behind this is a white transverse band which passes back along the side of the crown; within this white, anteriorly and laterally, is a black suffusion. The vertex and occiput are light brown. Chin and throat black, margined laterally and behind by a white band, beginning behind the eye. Belly pale buff anteriorly (an orange-brown rounded patch in the middle) and white laterally, the feathers all margined abruptly with black. The feathers on the sides of body like the back, streaked centrally with white. Feathers of top and sides of neck with the margins and shafts black. Under tail-coverts buff, broadly streaked centrally with brown.



*Lophortyx californicus.*

Female similar, without the white and black of the head; the feathers of the throat brownish-yellow, streaked with brown. The buff and orange-brown of the belly wanting. The crest short. Length, 9.50; wing, 4.32; tail, 4.12.



*Young.* Head as in the adult female. Upper parts pale brown, finely mottled transversely with black; scapulars and feathers of the back with yellowish-white shaft-streaks, widening at the end of the feather, and with a large black spot on each web.

*Chick.* Ground-color dingy white, tinged on the head, wings, and upper parts with pale rusty. A broad stripe on occiput and nape umber-brown; upper parts with rather confused and rather elongated mottlings; an indistinct auricular spot. Beneath plain dull white.

HAB. Valley portions and foot-hills of the Pacific Province of the United States, south to Cape St. Lucas.

HABITS. This beautiful species, according to Dr. Newberry, is called the Valley Quail in California, to distinguish it from the Plumed Quail, which inhabits the hills and the highlands, and is called the Mountain Quail. The common Valley Quail of California inhabits the prairies and the grain-fields of the cultivated districts, and frequents the thickets which border the streams, usually in coveys of from a dozen to a hundred individuals, except during the breeding-season, when it is found only in pairs. Like the eastern Quail, the male bird is very fond of sitting on some stump or log projecting above the grass and weeds which conceal his mate and nest or brood, and, especially in the early morning, uttering his peculiar cry, — whistle it can hardly be called. This note is spoken of as being rather harsh and disagreeable than otherwise, and somewhat resembling that of some of the Woodpeckers. Dr. Newberry adds that it may be represented by the syllables *kâck-kâck-kâck-kâ*, the first three notes being rapidly repeated, the last prolonged with a falling inflection. As a game bird he regards this Quail as inferior to the eastern one, though of equal excellence for the table. It does not lie so well to the dog, does not afford as good sport, and takes to a tree much more readily than the eastern Quail. It is found in all the valleys of California and Oregon, both those in the interior and those that open on the coast. It is not found in the deep forests, nor on the mountains at any considerable elevation, nor in the interior basin where water and vegetation are scarce. Specimens were taken by his party in different parts of the Sacramento Valley, at Fort Jones, and in the Willamette Valley, near the Columbia. In all these there was no appreciable difference. This bird is said to make no elaborate nest, but to lay a large number of eggs on the ground, which are generally hatched in June. This bird is susceptible of domestication, and forms quite an ornament for parks, in which they thrive with proper care.

Dr. Suckley states that this Quail was successfully introduced into Washington Territory, on the prairies near Puget Sound, in the spring of 1857, by Governor Charles H. Mason and Mr. Goldsborough. Two lots were introduced, and by the following winter had increased largely. Mr. Gibbs mentions having met with great numbers of these birds on Russian River in 1851, and again on the Klamath in 1852. They were very tame, but took to the bushes when disturbed, perching on the limbs. Like the Sharp-tailed Grouse, they gathered in large flocks. This was the case even

when young, and it has been thence inferred that several females belong to one male, and with their broods all run together.

Dr. Kennerly states that his party first met with this beautiful Partridge upon reaching the waters of the Mohave River, and during the march up the stream he found it very abundant, as well as among the settlements along the coast. He could perceive no difference in its habits from those of *Lophortyx gambeli*.

Dr. Heermann states that he found the California Quail very numerous as far south as Vallecita, where commences the desert that extends to the Colorado, forming an apparently impassable barrier between it and the closely allied species, Gambel's Partridge. When flushed from the ground, it invariably flies to the trees, if in a wooded country, where it squats so closely lengthwise on a branch that it can rarely be seen when thus hidden. It will not lie to a dog, but runs until it is forced to fly. It may be readily tamed, and in California is often domesticated with the poultry. Several years since, according to Dr. Heermann, an attempt was made to introduce these birds into Long Island, which at first promised to be successful; but unfortunately, after the first season, they were all exterminated by the gunners for the New York market.

Mr. Ridgway met with this species only on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada, and at an altitude of not more than four or five thousand feet. He had no opportunity to learn anything in regard to its habits, but was enabled to listen to its notes. The call-note of the male is very peculiar, and resembles somewhat the syllables *kuck-kuck-kēē*, the accent being on the last syllable. The common note of the male bird, when disturbed with its mate in the bushes, and probably having a brood of young in the vicinity, was a sharp *pit*, precisely like the common note of the Cardinal Grosbeak.

The nest of this bird is made in the open field, or at the foot of a bush, and is composed of loose grasses arranged without much care. The eggs are said to be twelve or sixteen in number, and are yellowish or grayish white, spotted and dashed with dark brown or burnt-umber.

Mr. Titian R. Peale, in his Notes on the Wilkes expedition, mentions observing this species in the mountainous regions of Southern Oregon, near the 43d degree of north latitude, which he regarded as their farthest northern range. He frequently observed them collecting at night to roost in trees. At such times their call-note was plaintive, and had a slight resemblance to the words *cut-cut-cut-me-too*. Specimens of this bird were taken alive, kept by members of the expedition, and brought to the city of Washington by a route equal to the circumference of the globe, where they produced one brood of young.

Soda Lake, the "sink" of the Mohave River, the bed of which is usually quite dry, except in spots, for many miles, is said by Dr. Coues to be just where this species and the *L. gambeli* find a neutral ground, the western bird following the watercourses until arrested by the desert.

Mr. Xantus found this Quail breeding in great abundance at Cape St. Lucas. In one instance he found four eggs on the bare sand, under a pile of driftwood, without any trace of a nest. In another, three eggs were found on the bare ground, under a fallen cactus. In a third case there were nine eggs, also laid on the bare ground, but in the shade of a jasmine-bush. They were frequently found sheltered under piles of driftwood.

The eggs of this Quail are subject to great variations in marking, and also differ somewhat in size. They are sharply pointed at one end and rounded at the other. One egg, measuring 1.30 in length by 1.00 in breadth, has a ground-color of a creamy white, freckled with markings of a uniform shading of an olivaceous-drab. Another, measuring 1.22 by .91 inches, has the ground-color of the same, but the markings are larger and more confluent, and their color is a rusty drab. A third is 1.18 by .95 inches; ground-color a creamy white marked by large scattered spots of a chestnut-brown.

### **Lophortyx gambeli, GAMBEL.**

#### **GAMBEL'S QUAIL.**

*Lophortyx gambeli*, "NUTTALL," GAMBEL, P. A. N. S. Philad. I. 1843, 260. — McCALL, P. A. N. S. V, June, 1851, 221. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 645. — *IB.* Mex. B. II, Birds, 22. — DRESSER, *IB.*, 1866, 28. Rio Grande to Nuevo; *IB.* — COLES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 94 (Fort Whipple, Arizona). — *IB.* Ibis, 1866, 46 (habits). — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 79. — HEERM. P. R. R. R. X, C, 19. — *IB.* X, S, 60. — COOPER, Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 553. *Callipepla gambeli*, GOULD, Mon. Odont. pl. xvii. — CASS. Illust. I, II, 1853, 45, pl. ix. *Callipepla venusta*, GOULD, P. Z. S. XIV, 1846, 70.

**SP. CHAR.** General color cinereous; abdomen plain whitish; inner or upper webs of tertials broadly edged with white. Elongated feathers of the sides bright chestnut with a medial streak of white.

**Male.** The ash on the breast of a bluish cast, and the whitish of the belly strongly tinged with yellowish-buff, especially anteriorly; abdomen with a black patch. Anterior half of the head, and whole throat, deep black, bordered posteriorly with two broad, well-defined stripes of white, — the upper of these crossing the middle of the vertex and running backward above the auriculars to the occiput; the other beginning at the posterior angle of the eye and running downward. Vertex and occiput bright rufous, bounded anteriorly and laterally with black. Crest of black elongated, club-shaped, and considerably recurved feathers, springing from the vertex just behind the black bar, one and a half inches long. Wing, 4.70; tail, 4.30; bill, .50 long, and .25 deep; tarsus, 1.15; middle toe, 1.15.

**Female.** Head plain grayish, without white, black, or rufous; no black on abdomen, which also lacks a decided buff tinge; the cinereous of breast without bluish cast. Crest dusky, less than one inch long. Wing, 4.55; tail, 4.20.

**Young.** Upper parts ashy brown, minutely and indistinctly mottled transversely with dusky; scapulars and wing-coverts with white shaft-streaks, the former with pairs of dusky spots. Breast and sides with obsolete whitish bars on an ashy ground.

**Chick.** Dull sulphur-yellowish; a vertical patch, and two parallel stripes along each side of the back (four altogether), black. (Described from Grayson's plate.)

**HAB.** Colorado Valley of the United States; north to Southern Utah, and east to Western Texas.

An adult male collected in Southern Utah by Mr. Henshaw of Lieutenant Wheeler's Expedition differs from all others which we have seen, including a large series from the same locality, in having the abdomen chiefly plumbeous, with a few cloudings of black, in the place of a uniformly black patch. Except in this respect, however, it does not differ at all from other adult male specimens.

HABITS. Gambel's Partridge was obtained by Dr. Kennerly, near San Elizario, Texas, and on Colorado River, California, by Mr. A. Schott, and also by Dr. Kennerly. It was not observed by Dr. Kennerly until he reached the valley of the Rio Grande, nor did he meet with any farther west, in any part of Mexico, than San Bernardino, in Sonora. Though closely resembling in its habits the Scaly Partridge (*Callipepla squamata*), and in some instances occupying the same districts, he never found the two species together.

According to Mr. J. H. Clark, this species was not met with east of the Rio Grande, nor farther south than Presidio del Norte. Unlike the *squamata*, it is very common for this species to sit on the branches of trees and bushes, particularly the male, where the latter is said to utter the most sad and wailing notes. They are so very tame as to come about the Mexican towns, the inhabitants of which, however, never make any effort to capture them. They only inhabit wooded and well-watered regions, and are said to feed indifferently on insects or on berries; in summer they make the patches of *Solanum* their home, feeding on its quite palatable fruit. When flushed, this Quail always seeks the trees, and hides successfully among the branches.

Dr. Kennerly found this beautiful species in great numbers during the march of his party up the Rio Grande. Large flocks were continually crossing the road before them, or were seen huddled together under a bush. After passing the river he met with them again so abundantly along Partridge Creek as to give rise to the name of that stream. Thence to the Great Colorado he occasionally saw them, but after leaving that river they were not again seen. They are said to become quite tame and half domesticated where they are not molested. When pursued, they can seldom be made to fly, depending more upon their feet as a mode of escape than upon their wings. They run very rapidly, but seldom, if ever, hide, and remain close in the grass or bushes in the manner of the eastern Quail.

From Fort Yuma, on the Colorado River, to Eagle Springs, between El Paso and San Antonio, where he last saw a flock of these birds, Dr. Heermann states he found them more or less abundant whenever the party followed the course of the Gila, or met with water-holes or streams of any kind. Although they frequent the most arid portions of the country, where they find a scanty subsistence of grass-seed, mesquite leaves, and insects, they yet manifest a marked preference for the habitations of man, and were much more numerous in the cultivated fields of Tucson, Mesilla Valley, and El Paso. Towards evening, in the vicinity of the Mexican villages, the loud



call-notes of the male birds may be heard, gathering the scattered members of the flocks, previous to issuing from the cover where they have been concealed during the day. Resorting to the trails and the roads in search of subsistence, while thus engaged they utter a low soft note which keeps the flock together. They are not of a wild nature, often permit a near approach, seldom fly unless suddenly flushed, and seem to prefer to escape from danger by retreating to dense thickets. In another report Dr. Heermann mentions finding this species in California on the Mohave desert, at the point where the river empties into a large salt lake forming its terminus. The flock was wild, and could not be approached. Afterwards he observed them on the Big Lagoon of New River. At Fort Yuma they were quite abundant, congregating in large coveys, frequenting the thick underwood in the vicinity of the mesquite-trees. Their stomachs were found to be filled with the seeds of the mesquite, a few grass-seeds, and the berries of a parasitic plant. On being suddenly flushed these birds separate very widely, but immediately upon alighting commence their call-note, resembling the soft chirp of a young chicken, which is kept up for some time. The alarm over, and the flock once more reunited, they relapse into silence, only broken by an occasional cluck of the male bird. Once scattered they cannot be readily started again, as they lie close in their thick, bushy, and impenetrable coverts. Near Fort Yuma the Indians catch them in snares, and bring them in great numbers for sale.

Dr. Samuel W. Woodhouse first met with this species on the Rio Grande, about fifty miles below El Paso, up to which place it was extremely abundant. It was by no means a shy bird, frequently coming about the houses; and he very often observed the males perched on the top of a high bush, uttering their peculiarly mournful calls. He found it in quite large flocks, feeding principally on seeds and berries. It became scarce as he approached Doña Ana, above which place he did not meet with it again. He again encountered it, however, near the head of Bill Williams River, and afterwards on the Tampia Creek, and it was exceedingly abundant all along the Great Colorado. He was informed that they are never found west of the Coast Range, in California. About Camp Yuma, below the mouth of the Gila River, they were very abundant and very tame, coming quite near the men, and picking up the grain wasted by the mules. They are trapped in great numbers by the Indians.

This Quail is given by Mr. Dresser as occurring in Texas, but not as a common bird, and only found in certain localities. At Muddy Creek, near Fort Clark, they were not uncommon, and were also found near the Nueces River.

Dr. Coues (Ibis, 1866), in a monograph upon this species, describes its carriage upon the ground as being firm and erect, and at the same time light and easy, and with colors no less pleasing than its form. He found them to be exceedingly abundant in Arizona, and soon after his arrival in the

Territory he came upon a brood that was just out of the egg. They were, however, so active, and hid themselves so dexterously, that he could not catch one. This was late in July, and throughout the following month he met broods only a few days old. The following spring he found the old birds mated by April 25, and met with the first chick on the first of June. He infers that this species is in incubation during the whole of May, June, July, and a part of August, and that they raise two, and even three, broods in a season.

A single brood sometimes embraces from fifteen to twenty young, which by October are nearly as large as their parents. While under the care of the latter they keep very close together, and when alarmed either run away rapidly or squat so closely as to be difficult to flush, and, when forced up, they soon alight again. They often take to low limbs of trees, huddle closely together, and permit a close approach. The first intimation that a bevy is near is a single note repeated two or three times, followed by the rustling of leaves as the flock start to run.

These birds are said to be found in almost every locality except thick pine-woods without undergrowth, and are particularly fond of thick willow copses, heavy chaparral, and briery undergrowth. They prefer seeds and fruit, but insects also form a large part of their food. In the early spring they feed extensively on the tender fresh buds of young willows, which give to their flesh a bitter taste.

This Quail is said to have three distinct notes,—the common cry uttered on all occasions of alarm or to call the bevy together, which is a single mellow clear “chink,” with a metallic resonance, repeated an indefinite number of times; then a clear, loud, energetic whistle, resembling the syllables *killink-killink*, chiefly heard during the pairing-season, and is analogous to the *bob-white* of the common Quail; the third is its love-song, than which, Dr. Coues adds, nothing more unmusical can well be imagined. It is uttered by the male, and only when the female is incubating. This song is poured forth both at sunrise and at sunset, from some topmost twig near the spot where his mate is sitting on her treasures; and with outstretched neck, drooping wings, and plume negligently dangling, he gives utterance to his odd, guttural, energetic notes.

The flight of these birds is exceedingly rapid and vigorous, and is always even and direct, and in shooting only requires a quick hand and eye.

In his journey from Arizona to the Pacific, Dr. Coues found these birds singularly abundant along the valley of the Colorado; and he was again struck with its indifference as to its place of residence, being equally at home in scorched mesquite thickets, dusting itself in sand that would blister the naked feet, the thermometer at 117° Fah. in the shade, and in the mountains of Northern Arizona, when the pine boughs were bending under the weight of the snow. He also states that Dr. Cooper, while at Fort Mohave, brought up some young Gambel's Quails by placing the eggs under

a common Hen, and found no difficulty in domesticating them, so that they associated freely with the barnyard fowls. The eggs, he adds, are white, or yellowish-white, with brown spots, and were hatched out in twenty-four days. The nest is said to be a rather rude structure, about eight inches wide, and is usually hidden in the grass. The eggs number from twelve to seventeen.

Captain S. G. French, quoted by Mr. Cassin, writes that he met with this species on the Rio Grande, seventy miles below El Paso, and from that point to the place named their numbers constantly increased. They appeared to be partial to the abodes of man, and were very numerous about the old and decayed buildings, gardens, fields, and vineyards around Presidio, Isoleta, and El Paso. During his stay there in the summer of 1851, every morning and evening their welcome call was heard all around; and at early and late hours they were constantly to be found in the sandy roads and paths near the villages and farms. In the middle of the hot summer days, however, they rested in the sand, under the shade and protection of the thick chaparral. When disturbed, they glided through the bushes very swiftly, seldom resorting to flight, uttering a peculiar chirping note. The parents would utter the same chirping cry whenever an attempt was made to capture their young. The male and female bird were always found with the young, showing much affection for them, and even endeavoring to attract attention away from them by their actions and cries.

Colonel McCall (Proc. Phil. Ac., June, 1851) also gives an account of this bird, as met with by him in Western Texas, between San Antonio and the Rio Grande River, as well as in New Mexico. He did not fall in with it until he had reached the Limpia River, a hundred miles west of the Pecos, in Texas, where the *Acacia glandulosa* was more or less common, and the mesquite grasses and other plants bearing nutritious seeds were abundant. There they were very numerous and very fat, and much disposed to seek the farms and cultivate the acquaintance of man. About the rancho of Mr. White, near El Paso, he found them very numerous, and, in flocks of fifty or a hundred, resorting morning and evening to the barnyard, feeding around the grain-stacks in company with the poultry, and receiving their portion from the hand of the owner. He found them distributed through the country from the Limpia to the Rio Grande, and along the latter river from Eagle Spring Pass to Doña Ana.

The same careful observer, in a communication to Mr. Cassin, gives the western limit of this species. He thinks it is confined to a narrow belt of country between the 31st and 34th parallels of latitude, from the Pecos River, in Texas, to the Sierra Nevada and the contiguous desert in California. It has not been found on the western side of these mountains. Colonel McCall met with it at Alamo Mucho, forty-four miles west of the Colorado River. West of this stretches a desolate waste of sand, — a barrier which effectually separates this species from its ally, the California Quail.

This species is known to be abundant in the country around the sources of the Gila River, and has also been found along that river from the Pimo villages to its mouth, and there is no doubt that it inhabits the entire valley of the Gila. It was also common along the Colorado River, as far as the mouth of the Gila, and has been met with in that valley as high up as Tampia Creek, latitude 34°.

Colonel McCall regards this species as less wild and vigilant than the California species. It is later in breeding, as coveys of young California Quails were seen, one fourth grown, June 4, while all the birds of Gambel's were without their young as late as June 16. The voice of the male at this season is described as strikingly rich and full. The cry may be imitated by slowly pronouncing in a low tone the syllables *kaa-wale, kaa-wale*. When the day is calm and still, these notes may be heard to a surprising distance. This song is continued, at short intervals, in the evening, for about an hour. Later in the season when a covey is dispersed, the cry for reassembling is said to resemble *qua-el qua-el*. The voice of this bird at all seasons bears a great resemblance to that of the California Quail, but has no resemblance to that of the eastern *Ortyx virginiana*. In their crops were found the leaves of the mesquite, coleopterous insects, wild gooseberries, etc.

An egg of this species, taken by Dr. Palmer at Camp Grant, measures 1.25 inches in length by 1.00 in breadth. The ground-color is a cream white, beautifully marked with ragged spots of a deep chestnut. In shape it closely corresponds with the egg of the California Partridge.

#### GENUS **CALLIPEPLA**, WAGLER.

*Callipepla*, WAGLER, Isis, 1832. (Type, *Ortyx squamata*, Vig.)

GEN. CHAR. Head with a broad, short, depressed tufted crest of soft, thick feathers springing from the vertex. Other character, as in *Lophortyx*. Sexes similar.

The single United States species is of a bluish tint, without any marked contrast of color. The feathers of the neck, breast, and belly have a narrow edging of black.

#### **Callipepla squamata**, GRAY.

##### **SCALED OR BLUE PARTRIDGE.**

*Ortyx squamatus*, VIGORS, Zool. Journ. V, 1830, 275. — ABERT, Pr. A. N. Sc. III, 1847, 221. — *Callipepla squamata*, GRAY, Gen. III, 1846, 514. — M'CALL, Pr. A. N. Sc. V, 1851, 222. — CASSIN, Ill. I, v, 1854, 129; pl. xix. — GOULD, Mon. Odont. pl. xix. — BAIRD, Birds N. Am. 1858, 646. — Ib. Mex. B. II, Birds, 23. — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 78. — HEERM. X, C, 19. — COOP. Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 556. — *Callipepla strenua*, WAGLER, Isis, XXV, 1832, 278. — *Tetrao cristata*, DE LA LLAVE, Registro trimestre. I, 1832, 144.

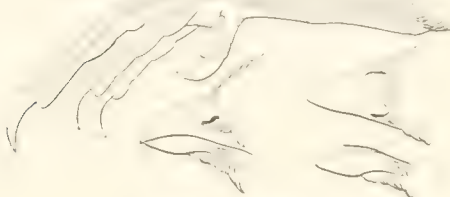


SP. CHAR. Head with a full, broad, flattened crest of soft elongated feathers. Prevailing color plumbeous-gray, with a fine bluish cast on jugulum and nape, whitish on the belly, the central portion of which is more or less tinged with brownish; sometimes a conspicuous abdominal patch of dark rusty, the exposed surface of the wings tinged with light yellowish-brown, and very finely and almost imperceptibly mottled. Head and throat without markings, light grayish-plumbeous; throat tinged with yellowish-brown. Feathers of neck, upper part of back, and under parts generally, except on the sides and behind, with a narrow but well-defined margin of blackish, producing the effect of im-

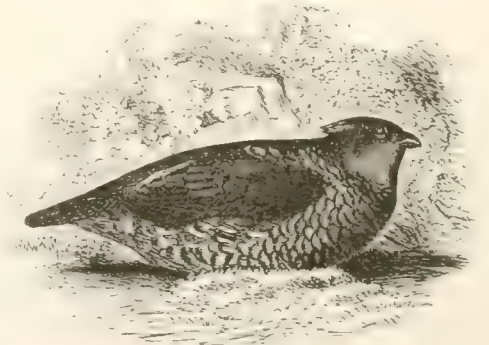
bricated scales. Feathers on the sides streaked centrally with white. Inner edge of inner tertials, and tips of long feathers of the crest, whitish. Crissum rusty-white, streaked with rusty. Female similar. Length, 9.50; wing, 4.80; tail, 4.10.

HAB. Table-lands of Mexico and valley of Rio Grande of Texas. Most abundant on the high broken table-lands and mesquite plains.

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*Callipepla squamata*

HABITS. This bird was first described as a Mexican species in 1830 by Mr. Vigors. For a long while it has been an extremely rare species in collections, and its history, habits, and distribution remained unknown until the explorations of the naturalists made in the surveys under the direction of the national government. It was first noticed within the territory of the United States by Lieutenant Abert, Topographical Engineer, who, in his Report of the examination of New Mexico, furnishes several notes in relation to this species. In November, 1846, he mentions that, after having passed through Las Casas, while descending through a crooked ravine strewn with fragments of rocks, he saw several flocks of this species. They were running along with great velocity among the clumps of the kreosote plant. At the report of the gun only three or four rose up, the rest seeming to depend chiefly on their fleetness of foot. Their stomachs were found to be filled with grass-seeds and hemipterous insects.

*Callipepla squamata.*

Captain S. G. French, in notes quoted by Mr. Cassin, mentions meeting with these birds, in the same year, near Camargo, on the Rio Grande. At Monterey none were seen; but on the plains of Agua Nueva, a few miles south of Saltillo, they were observed in considerable numbers. He afterwards met with them on the Upper Rio Grande, in the vicinity of El Paso.

Though found in the same section of country with Gambel's Quail, they were not observed to associate together in the same flock. Their favorite resorts were sandy chaparral and mesquite bushes. Through these they ran with great swiftness, resorting only, when greatly alarmed by a sudden approach, to their wings. They were very shy, and were seldom found near habitations, though once a large covey ran through his camp in the suburbs of El Paso.

Colonel McCall (Proc. Phil. Ac. V, p. 222) mentions meeting with this species throughout an extended region, from Camargo, on the Lower Rio Grande, to Santa Fé. They were most numerous between the latter place and Doña Ana, preferring the vicinity of watercourses to interior tracts. They were wild, exceedingly watchful, and swift of foot, eluding pursuit with surprising skill, scarcely ever resorting to flight even on the open sandy ground. For the table they are said to possess, in a high degree, the requisites of plump muscle and delicate flavor.

In a subsequent sketch of this species, quoted by Mr. Cassin, the same writer gives as the habitat the entire valley of the Rio Grande, — a territory of great extent from north to south, and embracing in its stretch between the Rocky Mountains and the Gulf of Mexico every variety of climate. This entire region, not excepting even the mountain valleys covered in winter with deep snow, is inhabited by it. It was found by him from the 25th to the 38th degree of north latitude, or from below Monterey, in Mexico, along the borders of the San Juan River, as high up as the Taos and other northern branches of the Rio Grande. He also found it near the head of the Riado Creek, which rises in the Rocky Mountains and runs eastwardly to the Canadian.

Wherever found, they are always resident, proving their ability to endure great extremes of heat and cold. In swiftness of foot, no species of this family can compete with them. When running, they hold their heads high and keep the body erect, and seem to skim over the surface of the ground, their white plume erected and spread out like a fan.

On the Mexican side of the Rio Grande this species is found farther south than on the western bank, owing to the rugged character of the country. In Texas its extreme southern point is a little above Reinosá, on the first highlands on the bank.

Don Pablo de la Llave, a Mexican naturalist, states, in an account of this species (Registro Trimestre, I, p. 144, Mexico, 1832), that he attempted its domestication in vain. In confinement it was very timid, all its movements were rapid, and, although he fed his specimens for a long time each day, they seemed to become more wild and intractable. It was found by him in all the mesquite regions of Northern Mexico.

Specimens of this Partridge were taken near San Pedro, Texas, by Mr. J. H. Clark, and in New Leon, Mexico, by Lieutenant Couch. According to Mr. Clark, they are not found on the grassy prairies near the coast. He met with

them on Devil's River, in Texas, where his attention was at first directed to them by their very peculiar note, which, when first heard, suggested to him the cry of some species of squirrel. In the valley of the Lower Rio Grande he also met with these birds in companies of a dozen or more. Their food, on the prairies, appeared to be entirely insectivorous; while on the Lower Rio Grande all the specimens that were procured had their bills stained with the berries of the opuntia. They were not shy, and would rather get out of the way by running than by flying. At no time, and under no circumstances, were they known to alight in bushes or in trees. They were only known to make mere scratches in the ground for nests, and their situations were very carelessly selected. Young birds were found in June and in July.

Lieutenant Couch first met with this species about sixty leagues west of Matamoras, and not until free from the prairies and bottom-land. It was occasionally noticed, apparently associating with the *Ortyx texana*, to which it is very similar in habit.

Dr. Kennerly found them everywhere where there was a permanent supply of fresh water, from Limpia Creek, in Texas, to San Bernardino, in Sonora. They were met with on the mountain-sides, or on the hills among the low mesquite-bushes and barrea. They apparently rely more upon their legs than upon their wings, ascending the most precipitous cliffs or disappearing among the bushes with great rapidity.

The most western point at which Dr. Heermann observed this species was the San Pedro River, a branch of the Gila, east of Tucson. There a flock of these birds ran before him at a quick pace, with outstretched necks, heads elevated, crests erect and expanded, and soon disappeared among the thick bushes that surrounded them on all sides. After that they were seen occasionally until they arrived at Lympia Springs. Lieutenant Barton informed Dr. Heermann that he had procured this species near Fort Clark, one hundred and twenty miles west of San Antonio, where, however, it was quite rare. It was found abundantly on the open plains, often starting up before the party when passing over the most arid portions of the route. They also seemed partial to the prairie-dog villages. These, covering large tracts of ground destitute of vegetation, probably offered the attraction of some favorite insect.

Dr. Woodhouse met with this species on only one occasion, as the party was passing up the Rio Grande, at the upper end of Valleverde, on the west side of the river, on the edge of the sand-hills, feeding among the low bushes. They were exceedingly shy and quick-footed. He tried in vain to make them fly, and they evidently preferred their feet to their wings as a means of escape. He was told that they were found above Santa Fé.

Mr. Dresser found this species on the Rio Grande above Roma, and between the Rio Grande and the Nueces they were quite abundant; wherever found, they seemed to have the country to themselves to the exclusion of

other species. He reports them as very difficult to shoot, for the reason that, whenever a bevy is disturbed, the birds scatter, and, running with outstretched necks and erected crests, dodge through the bushes like rabbits, so as soon to be out of reach. He has thus seen a flock of ten or fifteen disappear so entirely as to render it impossible to obtain a single one. If left undisturbed, they commence their call-note, which is not unlike the chirp of a chicken, and soon reunite. It was utterly out of the question to get them to rise, and the only way to procure specimens was to shoot them on the ground. Near the small villages in Mexico he found them very tame; and at Presidio, on the Rio Grande, he noticed them in a corral, feeding with some poultry. He did not meet with their eggs, but they were described to him, by the Mexicans, as dull white, with minute reddish spots.

The egg of the *Callipepla squamata* is regularly oval, being much more elongated than with any other species of this family. It measures 1.35 inches in length by .95 in breadth. Its ground-color is a creamy white, and its surface is minutely freckled with specks of a pale drab.

#### GENUS **CYRTONYX**, GOULD.

*Cyrtonyx*, GOULD, Mon. Odontoph. 1845. (Type, *Ortux massena*, LESSON.)

GEN. CHAR. Bill very stout and robust. Head with a broad, soft occipital crest of short decumbent feathers. Tail very short, half the length of the wings, composed of soft feathers, the longest scarcely longer than the coverts; much graduated. Wings long and broad, the coverts and tertials so much enlarged as to conceal the quills. Feet robust, extending considerably beyond the tip of the tail. Claws very large, the outer lateral reaching nearly to the middle of the central anterior. The toes without the claws, however, are very short. Sexes very different.

This genus differs very much from its North American allies in the great development of the feathers composing the wing-coverts, the very short and soft tail, and the very short toes and long claws. It is almost worthy of forming the type of a distinct subfamily, so many and great are its peculiarities. The single North American representative is the only one of our species with round white spots on the lower surface and black ones above. A second species, *C. ocellatus*, is found in Southern Mexico. They may be distinguished as follows: —





## Species.

**C. massena.** Shaft-streaks of wing-feathers yellowish-white; sides with small round white spots, median lower parts dark median chestnut. *Hab.* Northern Mexico, and adjacent portions of the United States, from the Upper Rio Grande and Colorado Valleys, south to Mazatlan.

**C. ocellatus.**<sup>1</sup> Shaft-streaks of wing-feathers chestnut-rufous. Sides with large rufous spots, medial lower parts bright rufous, lighter anteriorly. *Hab.* Southern Mexico, and Guatemala.

**Cyrtonyx massena, GOULD.****MASSENA PARTRIDGE.**

*Ortyx massena*, LILSON, Cont. Zool. 1830, 189. — FINSEH, Abh. Nat. 1870, 357 (Guadalupe). *Cyrtonyx massena*, GOULD, Mon. Odont. 1850, 14; tab. vii. — MCALL, Pt. A N. S. V, 1851, 221. — CASSIN, Illust. I. I, 1853, 21, pl. xvi. — REICHENE Syst. Av. 1850, pl. xxvii. — BAIRD, Birds N. A. 1858, 617. — IB. Mex. B. II, Birds, 23. — DRESSER, Ibis, 1866, 29 (Bandera Co., Texas; breeds). — COUES, P. A. N. S. 1866, 95 (Fort Whipple, Arizona). — GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. V, 1867, 74. — COOP. Orn. Cal. I, 1870, 558. *Ortyx maculirostris*, VIGORS, Zool. Jour. V, 1830, 275. *Oedipodopsis maculirostris*, WAGLER, Isis, XXV, 1832, 279. *Tetrao guttata*, DE LA LLAVE, Registro Trimestre, I, 1832, 145 (CASSIN).

**SP. CHAR.** *Male.* Head striped with white, black, and lead-color; chin black. Feathers above streaked centrally with whitish, those on the outer surface of the wings with two series of rounded black spots. Central line of breast and belly dark chestnut; the abdomen, thighs, and crissum black; the sides of breast and body lead-color, with round white spots. Legs blue. Length, 8.75; wing, 7.00; tail, 2.50.

*Cyrtonyx massena.*

*Female.* Prevailing color light vinaceous-cinnamon, the upper parts barred and streaked as in the male. Head without white or black stripes. Sides with a few narrow, irregular streaks of black.

*Young.* Somewhat similar to the adult female, but lower parts whitish, the feathers, especially on the breast, with transverse blackish spots on both webs.

*Chick.* Head dingy white, with a broad occipital elliptical patch of chestnut-brown, and a blackish streak behind the eye. Above rusty-brown, obscurely spotted with black; a white stripe on each side of the rump. Beneath almost uniform dull white.

**HAB.** Chiefly on the Upper Rio Grande from the high plains of the Pecos. Fort Whipple, Arizona; Northern Mexico, southward, on the west coast, to Mazatlan.

**HABITS.** This Quail was first met with by Lieutenant Couch in the cañon Guyapuco, about twelve leagues south of Monterey. Though rather shy, they seemed quite at home in the cultivated fields and stubbles of the ranches. Mr. Clark first noticed the species among a flock of the *Ortyx texana*. Once, on flushing a covey of the latter, a bird was seen to remain behind, and showed no inclination to follow the rest. It attempted to hide in the grass,

<sup>1</sup> *Cyrtonyx ocellatus*, GOULD, P. Z. S. IV, p. 78. — IB. Monog. Odont.

but did not fly, and, when shot, proved to be a Massena Quail. He says they occur either in pairs or in flocks, and when once flushed fly farther than the Virginia Quail, but do not lie so close. They may be approached within a few feet, and followed up, particularly when in pairs, running along before one like so many domestic fowl. They are of quiet as well as of retired habits, and a subdued though sharp note is the only noise that Mr. Clark ever heard them make, and that only when frightened. He has known them to be pursued, and all the barrels of a six-shooter fired one after another without alarming them; and they were forced to fly at last only by an attack of stones and clubs. He first met with them in the neighborhood of San Antonio, and found them thence sparsely distributed as an inhabitant both of prairies and mountains as far westward as Sonora. They are wilder than the Scaled Partridge, are less conspicuous and noisy, and are never seen in flocks, or, like the latter, living about old camps. Their haunts are generally far removed from the habitations of man, and the indifference they sometimes manifest to his presence seems to be due to ignorance of the danger from the power of that enemy. Though distributed over the same country as the *C. squamata*, they are never found in such barren regions, always seeming to prefer the districts most luxuriantly covered with vegetation.

Dr. C. B. R. Kennerly states that this bird was never seen farther south in Texas than Turkey Creek. In that vicinity it was very common, and it also occurred at various points thence to the Rio Grande. In the valley of this river it was very rarely seen, giving way apparently to the Scaly and to Gambel's Partridge. West of the river it was very common, as far as the party travelled, wherever there was a permanent supply of fresh water. In the valley of the Santa Cruz River and among the adjacent hills it was extremely abundant. In the months of June and July it was observed there always in pairs, while in Texas, in the months of October and November, it was found in very large flocks, sometimes of various ages, from the very small and partly fledged to the full-grown bird. When hunted, they hide very closely in the grass, and Dr. Kennerly has often known the Mexican soldiers in Sonora kill them with their lances by striking them either while on the ground or just as they rise. Some of these men were very expert in the business, and obtained a good many in the course of a day's travel.

Dr. Woodhouse met with this species a few miles above the head of the Rio San Pedro, where he secured a single specimen. He was informed by Captain S. G. French that when he first passed over exactly the same route in 1849, he met with a number of them in different localities,—at the head of San Pedro, Howard Springs, and also at Eagle Springs,—showing evidently that they have a range over the country lying between the Rio Grande and the San Pedro Rivers. He also stated that he had never met with any near the settlements, but always among the wild, rocky, and almost barren hills of

that country. They are more sociable and not so shy as the other species of this family. Their food appears to be principally insects.

Mr. Dresser states that this bird is locally known as the Black Partridge. For some time he sought for it near San Antonio without success, but ultimately found it, in November, among the Bandera Hills. In its habits he states it is more like the Texan Quail than any other; but on the wing it is easily distinguished, it flies so heavily, though very swiftly. When disturbed, they squat very close, and will not move until approached very closely, when they generally rise up from under one's feet. He did not meet with this Quail in any other part of Texas than Bandera County, but was told that it is abundant in the hilly country at the head of the Leona, and that it is also found near Laredo.

In some remarks on the birds of Western Texas, published in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy in 1851, Colonel McCall gives the first information to the public touching the habits of this interesting species. We learn from his narrative that it was not met with by him before crossing the San Pedro River, but that it was soon after seen in the rocky regions into which he then entered; and thence as far as the Rio Pecos, a distance of one hundred and forty miles westwardly, it was frequently seen, though it was not anywhere very common. This entire region is a desert of great extent, north and south; the general face of the country is level, and produces nothing but a sparse growth of sand-plants. Water was found only at long intervals, and except at such points there was apparently neither food nor cover. There, among projecting rocks or the borders of dry gullies, or in loose scrub, this bird was met with by Colonel McCall.

The habits of this species appeared to him to be different from those of any other kind of Partridge he had ever met with. They were in coveys of from eight to twelve individuals, and appeared to be simple and affectionate in disposition. In feeding they separated but little, keeping up all the while a social *cluck*. They were so gentle as to evince little or no alarm on the approach of man, hardly moving out of the way as they passed, and only running off or flying a few yards, even when half their number had been shot. Colonel McCall was of the opinion that they might, with very little difficulty, be domesticated, though naturally inhabiting a barren waste nowhere near the habitation of man. The call-note is spoken of as very peculiar. The bird was not seen by his party after crossing the Pecos River. Mr. Gould, without any information in regard to the habits or economy of this species, in his Monograph of American Partridges, judging from the comparative shortness of the toes and the great development of the claws, ventured the opinion that the habits would be found very different from those of other members of the family, which opinion is thus confirmed. Mr. Cassin thought he could trace in the circular spots, numerous in the lower part of the body, an analogy in character to the Guinea-fowls, which is further shown by their habit of continually uttering their notes as they feed, and by other similarity in their manners.

Captain S. G. French, cited by Mr. Cassin, mentions meeting with this Partridge in the summer of 1846, when crossing the table-lands that extend westwardly from San Antonio, in Texas, to New Mexico. On the sides of a high rocky mountain near the summit, he observed several of them only a few feet in advance of him. They were running along over the fragments of rocks and through the dwarf bushes which grew wherever there was sufficient soil. He was attracted by their handsome plumage and their extreme gentleness. A few days after, when encamped on the headwaters of the river, he again met with a covey, and from that point occasionally encountered them on the route to the Pecos River, a distance of over a hundred miles. He did not meet with them again until he came to Eagle Springs, in a mountainous region about twenty-five miles from the Rio Grande. In the spring of 1851, on the same route, he saw only two of these birds, and was led to the belief that they are not at all numerous. They appeared to inhabit the rocky sides of the mountains and hills, in the desolate region of elevated plains west of the fertile portions of Texas. In no instance did he meet with any of these birds near the settlements. Wild and rocky hillsides seemed to be their favorite resort, where trees were almost unknown and all vegetation was very scant. The coveys showed but little alarm on being approached, and ran along over the rocks, occasionally attempting to secrete themselves beneath them. In this case they could be approached to within a few feet. When startled by the firing of a gun, they fly but a few yards before again alighting, and exhibit but little of that wildness peculiar to all the other species of Partridge. The contents of the crop in Captain French's specimens consisted exclusively of fragments of insects, principally grasshoppers. No trace whatever of food of a vegetable character was found.

Don Pablo de la Llave, quoted by Mr. Cassin, furnishes the following account of the habits of this Partridge, observed by him in specimens taken near the city of Mexico.

"It is only a few days since the third species has been brought to me. It is rather smaller than the former (*C. squamata*), and its deportment is entirely different. It carries its head habitually resting on its shoulders, the neck being excessively small and deflexed, and in everything it shows an amiability, and, so to speak, kindness of character (*una bondad de caracter*), which is not found in any other species of this genus, and it is naturally so tame and domestic as to permit itself to be caught with the hand. These birds are always united, forming a covey, and whenever one is separated the others follow it. They do not, like others, wish to sleep on elevated places, but sit on the ground, drawing very near together. Their notes, which are not varied, are very low and soft, and I have never heard loud cries from the male. When they are frightened they show much activity and swiftness; at other times their gait and movement are habitually slow and deliberate, carrying the crest puffed up (*espayada*)."





# A P P E N D I X.



# I.

## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

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DURING the considerable interval of time since the printing of this work was commenced, many additional facts have come to light in regard to the habits and geographical distribution of the land birds of North America; and while several so-called species have proved to be mere races, or even of less rank, some others have been added to the list. The more important of these are herewith subjoined.

Most of the new facts here announced are the results of the more recent labors of Captain Charles Bendire, First Cavalry, U. S. A., and of Messrs. J. A. Allen, C. E. Aiken, Dr. E. Coues, H. W. Henshaw, Mr. C. J. Maynard, and others, whose names are mentioned in their appropriate places.

**Turdus pallasi**, var. **nanus** (I, 20). Dr. Cooper has sent to the Smithsonian Institution skins of his *T. nanus*, and they prove to be *T. ustulatus*. The surmise expressed on page 21, that the nest and eggs described by Dr. Cooper as those of the former in reality belonged to the latter species, is thus undoubtedly correct.

**Turdus pallasi**, var. **auduboni** (I, 21). A nest with the eggs (S. I. 16,320) of this species was taken near Fort Ellis, Montana, July 16, 1872, by C. H. Merriam, attached to Dr. Hayden's party. The nest is large and bulky for the size of the bird, is deeply saucer-shaped in form, measuring 6 inches in external diameter by 3 in depth. The cavity of the nest is 3 inches in diameter by about 1.75 deep. It is composed entirely of green mosses and lined with fine grass leaves.

The eggs were three in number, in shape broadly ovate and obtusely rounded at either end. They measure .85 of an inch in length by .72 in breadth; their color is a rather deep greenish-blue, almost exactly like those of *Turdus migratorius*.

The nest was built in a small pine-tree, about eight feet from the ground, in the pine regions of the mountains. In its position it differs from any now known of the *Turdus pallasi*, which, so far as known, builds invariably on the ground.

**Harpophynchus ocellatus** (I, 36). This is probably a Mexican form of *H. cinereus*.



**Harporhynchus rufus** (I. 37). According to Mr. Allen (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. III, No. 6, p. 134) this species is found on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. It is not included in the "Birds of California," but Dr. Cooper states that in September, 1870, he found a straggler at Clear Lake, close to the lower town. It was in a thicket with its western cousins, but possessed unmistakably all the characteristics of the eastern bird. Unfortunately, it was not secured. As this species is short-winged and nearly resident in many localities, its occurrence so far from its usual resort is somewhat remarkable. It had none of the appearance of a cage-bird.

**Harporhynchus curvirostris**, var. **palmeri** (I. 43). Four specimens from Tucson, Arizona, were recently forwarded for examination by Dr. Coues, collected by the indefatigable Captain Bendire, U. S. A., when stationed at that post. The specimens are all true *palmeri* in the characters which definitely separate it from *curvirostris*, its nearest ally, and show the seasonal discrepancies in the shades of color. A male and female, collected in November, differ from the types, which are summer birds, in being of a brownish-plumbeous above, even more ashy than in any specimens of *curvirostris* which we have seen. In all other respects, however, they are typical examples of var. *palmeri*, and substantiate the validity of this well-marked form. The measurements of these two specimens are as follows:—

♂. Wing, 4.50; tail, 4.90; culmen, 1.45; tarsus, 1.25; middle toe, 1.00.  
 ♀. " 4.20 " 4.80 " 1.40 " 1.20 " .90.

The description of this form was first published by Dr. Coues in "Key to North American Birds" (October, 1872), p. 351, the type being specimen No. 61,589, Mus. S. I.

**Harporhynchus bendirei**, COUES (Am. Nat. Vol. VII, June, 1873, p. 330, fig. 69).

CHAR. Nearly similar to *H. palmeri* in color, but whiter on the breast, and apparently more ochraceous on the flanks. Much smaller than *H. palmeri*, with smaller and very differently shaped bill. *Male* (not adult), No. 2,686, Mus. E. C. Wing, 4.10; tail, 4.50; culmen, 1.15; tarsus, 1.20; middle toe, .88. *Female* (adult), No. 2,688, Mus. E. C. Wing, 3.80; tail, 4.40; culmen, 1.15; tarsus, 1.15; middle toe, .88.

HAB. Tucson, Arizona.

This new form Dr. Coues considers to be most nearly related to the *H. cinereus* of Cape St. Lucas; and judging from its eggs, lately sent to the Smithsonian Institution by Captain Bendire, such appear to be really its affinities.

The eggs sent by Captain Bendire (No. 16,486, Mus. S. I.) measure 1.00 in length by .80 in breadth, and are three in number. Their ground-color is a dull bluish-white, spotted with a very faint shade of reddish-brown, the spots thickest round the larger end.

**Harporhynchus crissalis** (I. 47). Captain Bendire found this species breeding abundantly near Tucson, Arizona (See COUES, Am. Nat. VI, June, 1872, 370). The eggs in all instances were similar to those described as found by Dr. Palmer, unspotted, and in size, shape, and color, hardly distinguishable from the eggs of the common Robin (*T. migratorius*). They are of an oblong-oval shape, rounded and nearly equal at either end, and measure 1.10 inches in length by .75 in breadth.

*Harporhynchus redivivus.*

**Harporhynchus redivivus** (I, 45). The accompanying cut, showing the extreme anatomy of the species, was omitted in its proper place.

**Mimus polyglottus** (I, 49). Mr. C. E. Aiken has obtained this species in El Paso County, Colorado.

**Saxicola œnanthe** (I, 60). Mr. C. J. Hampton obtained a specimen of this bird at Junius, Seneca County, N. Y., on the 9th of September, 1872. Professor Newton suggests, by letter, as an interesting problem, the route by which this species reaches Alaska in its migrations. It is not known to occur near the Sea of Ochotsk, has not been found on the Lower Amoor, and probably does not occur farther eastward than the Baikal Mountains. It has never been noticed in Japan or on the coast of China. It must therefore be very nearly certain that it cannot take that way to Alaska. Sundeval states that it is found in Kamtschatka, but this Mr. Newton questions, as no authority is given for this statement. The only alternative is to assume a route *via* Greenland, in this, perhaps, in a measure indorsing Petermann's suggestion that Greenland extends across the pole nearly to the Asiatic coast and to Alaska.

**Sialia mexicana** (I, 65). This species has been obtained in Western Iowa by Mr. Atkinson.

**Regulus calendula** (I, 75). We present the outlines of bill, feet, wings, and tail, omitted in their proper place.

*Regulus calendula.*

**Polioptila cœrulea** (I, 78). Mr. Aiken has taken this species in El Paso County, Colorado. Dr. Cooper informs me that he found it quite numerous near Auburn, Placer County, Cal., May 11, 1870, apparently migrating northward. In the following December he saw one near San Francisco. From this he infers that it winters much farther to the north in that State than it does east of the Rocky Mountains, and that the individuals occurring in Guatemala are eastern birds. He also states that it is the prevailing and probably the only form

in all the northern and western parts of the State of California. About September 20, 1872, this species came in great numbers to the vicinity of San Buenaventura and remained there all winter, going to the mountains northward by March 20.

***Polioptila melanura*** (I, 81). Dr. Cooper informs me that while he found *P. cerulea* common in September, he saw none of this species near San Buenaventura until November 12, when small parties appeared moving westward from the colder desert regions east of the mountains. They kept entirely in the artemisia thickets among the sandy and driest tracts, never going into the high trees like *P. cerulea*. In form, color, restless habits, and scolding mew, this species is said to be a perfect miniature and mimic of the Catbird.

According to Captain Bendire the species is not common in Arizona, where he met with three nests. "One before me, found July 25, 1872, fastened in a bunch of mistletoe, or rather suspended in it, is composed of a species of wild hemp fibres nicely woven together, and lined with a few feathers and exceedingly fine grass. The nest is very neatly made: Outer diameter, 2 inches; inner, 1.60; depth, 1.50. The number of eggs is five, ground-color pale green, with spots of light reddish-brown color scattered over the egg. Measurement, .50 by .40 of an inch. Their notes are a rather harsh twitter, kept up for some time. They are active little birds, and are very restless.

***Chamæa fasciata*** (I, 84). Mr. Allen thinks that he saw this species in Colorado Territory. See Am. Nat. VI, June, 1872, and Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. III, No. 6, p. 184.

***Lophophanes inornatus*** (I, 91). Mr. Aiken has obtained this species in El Paso County, Colorado, where it is common, while Mr. Henshaw, the naturalist of Lieutenant Wheeler's expedition, found it abundant in Southern Utah. These Rocky Mountain specimens are much grayer and somewhat larger than those from California.

***Parus rufescens*** (I, 104). Nests and eggs of a *Parus* which undoubtedly belong to this species were found by Mr. William A. Cooper, at Santa Cruz, Cal. One of these nests, sent to the Smithsonian Institution, was found about four miles from Santa Cruz, April 22, 1873. The nest was composed of moss and fine bark, largely intermingled with the fur of rabbits and other small quadrupeds. It was built in a hole in the branch of a tree about ten feet from the ground. The branch was about half a foot in diameter and was partially decayed. The cavity was about a foot in length from the nest to the place where the bird gained an entrance, which was a small hole about an inch and a quarter in diameter. The eggs were seven in number and contained partially formed embryos. They measure .64 of an inch in length by .52 in breadth, resemble the eggs of the *atricapillus*, but are more sparingly marked with spots, rather more minute and of a lighter shade of reddish brown, on a white ground.

***Sitta pygmæa*** (I, 120). This bird is probably a geographical form of *S. pusilla*, as suggested by Mr. Allen (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. III, No. 6, p. 115).

***Sitta pusilla*** (I, 122). Young specimens collected at Aiken, S. C., by Mr.

C. H. Merriam, are quite different in color from the adult plumage. The head is pale dull ashy, instead of light hair-brown, and the colors are duller generally. There is a near approach to *S. pygmaea* in their appearance.

**Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus** (I, 132). This species has been collected at Toquerville, Southern Utah, by Mr. Henshaw, and in Southern Nevada by Mr. Bischoff, naturalists to Lieutenant Wheeler's expedition.

**Salpinctes obsoletus** (I, 135). The range of this species has been remarkably extended by the capture of a specimen in Decatur County, Southern Iowa, where others were seen, by Mr. T. M. Trippe. See Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., December, 1872, p. 236.

**Catherpes mexicanus**, var. **conspersus** (I, 139). Numerous specimens obtained in Colorado by Mr. Allen and Mr. Aiken, and in Southern Utah by Mr. Henshaw, establish the fact of great uniformity in the characters of this race, and its distinctness from var. *mexicanus*. On page 139 "it is noticed that it is a remarkable fact that this northern race should be so much smaller than the Mexican one, especially in view of the fact that it is a resident bird in even the most northern parts of its ascertained habitat." As we find this peculiarity exactly paralleled in the *Thryothorus ludovicianus* of the Atlantic States (see below), may not these facts point out a law to the effect that in species which belong to essentially tropical families, with only outlying genera or species in the temperate zone, *the increase in size with latitude is toward the region of the highest development of the group?*

Dr. Cooper met with two specimens of this species in California in 1872; one about twelve miles back of San Diego, the other the same distance back of San Buenaventura, and both at the foot of lofty, rugged mountains. Their song he compares to loud ringing laughter; it is so shrill as to be heard at quite a distance, and seems as if it must be produced by a much larger bird.

**Thryothorus ludovicianus** (I, 142). Specimens of this species from Miami, Fla., are much darker colored than those from the Middle States (Maryland, Illinois, and southward), as might be expected; but very strangely, they are also much larger. In colors they very nearly resemble var. *berlandieri*, from the Lower Rio Grande.

A specimen in Mr. Ridgway's collection (No. 1,864, January 9), from Miami, Fla., compares with one from Southern Illinois (No. 1,652, Mt. Carmel, January, 1871) as follows: -

No.	Locality.	Sex.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.
1,864	Miami, Fla.	♂	2.75	2.60	.90	.95	.60
1,652	Mt. Carmel, Ill.	♂	2.45	2.30	.80	.80	.55

In coloration they are more nearly alike, the Florida specimen being hardly appreciably darker on the upper surface, though the lower parts are much deeper ochraceous, almost rufous. The Illinois specimen is deep ochraceous beneath, just about intermediate between Maryland and Florida specimens. Another Florida specimen (No. 62,733, Mus. S. I.; C. J. Maynard) measures: wing, 2.50; tail, 2.40; culmen, .85.



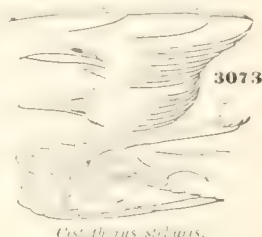
*Troglodytes parvulus, var. hyemalis.*

**Thryothorus bewicki**, var. **leucogaster** (I, 147). Specimens of this form were obtained at Toquerville, Southern Utah, in October, 1872, by Mr. Henshaw, attached to Lieutenant Wheeler's expedition.

**Troglodytes parvulus**, var. **hyemalis** (I, 155). Dr. Cooper has noticed a few of these Wrens near San Buenaventura in winter, after November

10. They probably reside in the summer in the high coast mountains lying east as well as in the Sierra Nevada. Outlines, omitted before, are here given.

**Cistothorus stellaris** (I, 159). Mr. Henshaw obtained good evidence of this bird's breeding at Utah Lake. Nests and eggs were found in a farm-house, unquestionably those of this species, and said to have been obtained among the tulés or sedges along the shore of the lake. Outlines of this species are here given.

*Cistothorus stellaris.*

**Anthus ludovicianus** (I, 171). Mr. Allen found this species breeding in the summer of 1871 on the summit of Mt. Lincoln, Colorado Territory, above the timber-line, at an altitude of over 13,000 feet.

**Helmitherus vermivorus** (I, 187). Professor Frank H. Snow procured a specimen of this species near Lawrence, Kansas, May 6, 1873.

**Helmitherus swainsoni** (I, 190). Was obtained in Florida by Mr. W. Thaxter.

**Helminthophaga virginiae** (I, 199). Very common in El Paso County, Colorado, where it was obtained by Mr. Aiken.

**Helminthophaga luciae** (I, 200). We are indebted to Captain Bendire for the discovery of the nest and eggs of this comparatively new Warbler. He first met with its nest near Tucson, Arizona, May 19, 1872. Unlike all the rest of this genus, which, so far as is known, build their nests on the ground, this species was found nesting something after the manner of the common Gray Creeper, between the loose bark and the trunk of a dead tree, a few feet from the ground. Except in their smaller size the eggs also bear a great resemblance to those of the Creeper. In shape they are nearly spherical, their ground is of a crystal whiteness, spotted, chiefly around the larger end, with fine dottings of a purplish-red. They measure .54 of an inch in length by .45 in breadth.

**Helminthophaga celata**, var. **lutescens** (I, 204). See Am. Nat. Vol. VII, October, 1873, p. 606.

**Helminthophaga peregrina** (I, 205). Obtained in El Paso County, Colorado, in September, 1873, by Mr. Aiken.

**Parula americana** (I, 208). Obtained in May in El Paso County, Colorado, by Mr. Aiken.

**Dendroica vieillotii**, var. **bryanti** (I, 218). See Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 606.

**Dendroica auduboni** (I, 229). In July, 1870, Dr. Cooper found families of this species fully fledged, wandering through the woods, at the summit pass of the Central Pacific Railroad, 7,000 feet altitude, confirming his supposition that they breed in the high Sierra Nevada. There they are very numerous in summer, following the retreating snow to this elevation about May 1, when the males are in full plumage, retaining it till August. Their song is always faint, and similar to that of *D. aestiva*.

**Dendroica cærulea** (I, 235). A nest, containing one egg, of the Cærulean Warbler, was obtained in June, 1873, by Frank S. Booth, the son of James Booth, Esq., the well-known taxidermist of Drummondville, Ontario, near Niagara Falls. The nest was built in a large oak-tree at the height of fifty feet or more from the ground. It was placed horizontally on the upper surface of a slender limb, between two small twigs, and the branch on which it was thus saddled was only an inch and a half in thickness. Being nine feet from the trunk of the tree, it was secured with great difficulty. The nest is a rather slender fabric, somewhat similar to the nest of the Redstart, and quite small for the bird. It has a diameter of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in depth. Its cavity is 2 inches wide at the rim, and 1 inch in depth. The nest chiefly consists of a strong rim firmly woven of strips of fine bark, stems of grasses, and fine pine-needles, bound round with flaxen fibres of plants and wool. Around the base a few bits of hornets' nests, mosses, and lichens are loosely fastened. The nest within is furnished with fine stems and needles, and the flooring is very thin and slight. The egg is somewhat similar in its general appearance to that of *D. aestiva*, but is smaller and with a ground-color of a different shade of greenish-white. It is oblong-oval in shape, and measures .70 of an inch in length by .50 in breadth. It is thinly marked over the greater portion of its surface with minute dottings of reddish-brown. A ring of confluent blotches of purple and reddish-brown surrounds the larger end.

**Dendroica blackburniæ** (I, 237). Obtained at Ogden, Utah, in September, 1871, by Mr. Allen (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. III, No. 5, p. 166).

**Dendroica dominica** (I, 240). A superb nest of the Yellow-throated Warbler was taken by Mr. Giles, near Wilmington, N. C., in the spring of 1872. The nest was enclosed in a pendent tuft of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), and completely hidden within it. Its form is cup-shaped, and it is made of fine roots, mixed with much downy material and a few soft feathers, and, except in its situation, does not differ much from other nests of this genus. Other nests have since been received from Mr. Giles; also a nest of *Parula americana* similarly situated. Mr. Ridgway, from an examination of the nests, infers that this situation is not constant, but that in other localities where the moss is not found this Warbler may build in thick tufts of leaves near the extremity of drooping branches, or in other similar situations.

**Dendroica dominica**, var. **albilora** (I, 241). See Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 606.

**Dendroica graciae**, var. **decora** (I, 244). See Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 608.

**Dendroica castanea** (I, 251). This Warbler is cited by us as exceedingly

rare in Eastern Massachusetts, though not unknown. A remarkable exception to this otherwise general rule occurred in the spring of 1872. For several days, in the latter part of May, they were found in great abundance in the vicinity of Boston. As the same unusual occurrence of this species in large numbers was noticed by Mr. Kumlien in Southern Wisconsin, it is probable that along the 42d parallel something occurred to cause a deviation from their usual migrations. The long pause of this species in its spring migrations, and its appearance in large numbers, are not known to have occurred before.

Mr. Salvin (Ibis, April, 1872) expresses the opinion that this Warbler, in its southern migration, does not pause in its flight from the Southern United States to stop in any of the West India Islands, nor in any point of Central America north of Costa Rica. It is by no means rare at Panama during the winter. We may therefore infer that in both its southern and its northern migrations long flights are made, at certain periods, over sections of country in which they do not appear at all, or where only a straggling few are ever seen, and that their abundance in 1872 was exceptional and due to causes not understood.

**Dendroica nigrescens** (I, 258). Obtained in El Paso County, Colorado; AIKEN.

**Dendroica occidentalis**, **D. townsendi**, and **D. nigrescens** (I, 258, 265, 266). While travelling over the Cuyamaca Mountains east of San Diego, in April, 1872, Dr. Cooper found *D. occidentalis*, for the first time, quite common. They seemed to be still migrating during the last week of April, but perhaps were only moving upwards, being numerous between the elevation of 1,500 and 4,000 feet, while heavy frosts still occurred at the latter height. They probably go in May as high as 6,200 feet, the summits of the highest peaks, which are densely covered by coniferous trees. *D. townsendi* and *D. nigrescens* were in company with *occidentalis* in small flocks, among the oaks, and all seemed to be following an elevated route northward. In 1862, Dr. Cooper found them among the chaparral along the coast, but he regards this as exceptional and probably occasioned by a severe storm in the mountains, as he saw none in 1872 in a spring of average mildness. They occur about Petaluma as early as April 1.

**Seiurus ludovicianus** (I, 287). Mr. E. Ingersoll met with the nest and eggs of the Large-billed Thrush near Norwich, Conn. The nest was sunk in the ground, in some moss and in the rotten wood underneath the roots of a large tree on the banks of the Yantic River. It was covered over, except just in front, by the roots. The nest was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in internal diameter and rather shallow, and was somewhat loosely constructed of fine dry grasses and little dead fibrous mosses. About the nest, but forming no part of it, were several loose leaves. These were chiefly in front of the nest, and served as a screen to conceal it and its occupant. The nest itself was placed under the edge of the bank, about ten feet above the water. The eggs were four in number and were quite fresh. Unblown, they have a beautiful rosy tint, the ground-color is a lustrous white, the egg having a polished surface. They are more or less profusely spotted all over with dots and specks, and a few obscure zigzag markings of reddish-brown of two shades, and umber, with faint touches of lilac and very pale washing of red. These markings are much more thickly distributed about the larger end, but nowhere form a

ring. They resemble the eggs of *S. aurocapillus*, but differ in their somewhat rounder shape, the brilliant polish of their ground, and the greater distinctness of the markings. They varied from .75 to .80 of an inch in length, and from .60 to .62 in breadth.

**Geothlypis** (I, 295). For a new synopsis of all the species of this genus, see *Am. Journ. Science and Arts*, Vol. X, December, 1872.

**Geothlypis trichas** (I, 297). Dr. Cooper found this species wintering in large numbers near San Buenaventura. They frequented the driest as well as the wettest spots.

**Geothlypis macgillivrayi** (I, 303). We now consider this form a geographical race of *S. philadelphia*. (See *Am. Journ. Science and Arts*, Vol. X, December, 1872.)

**Myiodioides pusillus**, var. **pileolatus** (I, 319). See *Am. Nat.* VII, October, 1873, p. 608.

**Setophaga picta** (I, 322). This species, not included in the preceding pages among North American Birds, was noticed on only two occasions by Captain Charles Bendire in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona. This was on the 4th of April, and again on the 12th of September, 1872. He thinks that they unquestionably breed in the mountains to the northward of Tucson. When seen in September they appeared to be moving southward, on their way to their winter quarters. He saw none throughout the summer. (See *Am. Nat.* VII.) By letter from Mr. Henshaw, we learn that he has obtained this species at Apache, Arizona.

**Vireosylva olivacea** (I, 369). Obtained at Ogden, Utah, in September, 1871, by Mr. Allen.

**Lanivireo solitarius** (I, 373). Dr. Cooper found, April 30, 1870, a male of this species in full plumage and singing delightfully on a ridge above Emigrant Gap on the west slope of the Sierra, about 5,500 feet altitude, and where the snow was still lying in deep drifts. He is confident that he saw the same species at Copperopolis in February, 1864. He thinks there is no doubt that to some extent they winter in the State.

**Lanivireo solitarius**, var. **plumbeus** (I, 378). El Paso County, Colorado ; AIKEN.

**Vireo pusillus** (I, 391). Dr. Cooper found this species near San Buenaventura as early as March 26, 1872, where it was quite common. On the 22d of April he found a nest pendent between the forks of a dead willow branch. This was five feet from the ground, built on the edge of a dense marshy thicket, of flat strips and fibres of bark, and lined with fine grass, hair, and feathers. There were a few feathers of the Barn Owl, also, on the outside. The nest measured three inches each way. The eggs were laid about the 28th, were four in number, white, with a few small black specks mostly near the larger ends, and measured .69 of an inch in length by .51 in breadth.

**Phænopepla nitens** (I, 405). Captain Bendire writes me that he found this species common in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona, during the summer, a few only re-



maining during the winter; most of these had white edgings on all their feathers, and were probably young of the year. Their flight is described as wavering, something like that of *Colaptes mexicanus*. While flying they utter a high note, resembling *whuif-whuif*, repeated several times. He never heard them sing, as they are said to do, although he has watched them frequently. They are very restless, and are always found about the mistletoe, on the berries of which they feed almost exclusively. The nest is saddled on a horizontal branch, generally of a mesquite-tree. It is a shallow structure, about 4 inches across; its inner diameter is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, depth  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch. It is composed of fine sticks, fibres of plants, and lined with a little cottonwood down and a stray feather. The first nest was found May 16. This was principally lined with the shells of empty cocoons. The number of eggs was two. Though he found more than a dozen nests with eggs and young, he never found more than two in a nest. Their ground-color varies from a greenish-white to a lavender and a grayish-white, spotted all over with different shades of brown. The spots are all small, and most abundant about the larger end, and vary greatly in their distributions. In size they range from .97 of an inch to .84 in length, and in breadth from .66 to .60.

**Collurio ludovicianus**, var. **robustus** (I, 420). See Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 609.

**Certhiola newtoni** (I, 427). See Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 611.

**Certhiola caboti** (I, 427). See Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 612.

**Certhiola barbadensis** } (I, 427). See Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873,  
**Certhiola frontalis** } p. 612.

**Pyranga hepatica** (I, 440). Captain Bendire found what he identified as this species breeding near Tucson, Arizona. Its nests and eggs resembled those of *P. aestiva*. The latter vary in length from 1.02 inches to .95, and in breadth from .70 to .67 of an inch. Their ground-color is a pale light green. Some are sparingly marked over the entire egg with very distinctive and conspicuous blotches of purplish-brown; others are covered more generally with finer dottings of the same hue, and these are so numerous as partly to obscure the ground. In shape the eggs are oblong oval, and are of nearly equal size at either end. This species was also obtained by Mr. Henshaw, at Apache, Arizona.

As no skins of the parent appear to have been preserved, it is not improbable that the bird in question may be really *P. aestiva*, var. *cooperi*.

**Hesperiphona vespertina**, var. **montana** (I, 450). Two adult males obtained at Waukegan, Illinois, in January, 1873, by Mr. Charles Douglass, are typical examples of the Rocky Mountain form.

**Pinicola enucleator** (I, 453). Dr. Cooper mentions having shot a fine male of this species near the summit of the Central Railroad Pass at an elevation of about 7,000 feet. It was in a fine orange-red plumage. It was moulting, and appeared to be a straggler.

**Pyrrhula cassini** (I, 457). Since the publication of the article on this species we learn from Cabanis (*Journal für Ornithologie*, 1871, 318, 1872, 315) that the species is not uncommon in the vicinity of Lake Baikal, in Siberia, and that it

has even been observed in Belgium (Crommelin, Archives Néerlandaises). The bird, therefore, like the *Phylloscopus borealis* (*P. kumicotti*, Baird) and *Motacilla flava*, is to be considered as Siberian, straggling to continental Alaska in the summer season.

**Chrysomitris psaltria** (I, 474). See Am. Journ. of Science and Arts, Vol. IV, December, 1872, for a special paper upon the races of this species and their relation to climatic regions.

**Chrysomitris psaltria**, var. **arizonæ** (I, 476). On the 7th of May, 1872, Dr. Cooper saw a single specimen (male), which he had no doubt was of this bird, at Encinetos Ranch, thirty miles north of San Diego. It was feeding with other species among dry sunflowers. He also saw another near San Buenaventura in January, 1873.

**Loxia "leucoptera**, var." **bifasciata** (I, 483). At the time when the synopsis of the species of this genus was prepared, we had not seen any specimens of the European White-winged Crossbill. A recent examination of specimens from Sweden has convinced us, however, that the species is entirely distinct from *leucoptera*, and more nearly related to *curvirostra*, with the several forms of which it agrees quite closely in the details of form and proportions, as well as in tints, with the exception of the markings of the wing.

**Leucosticte tephrocotis** (I, 504). The specimens collected by Mr. Allen in Colorado, mentioned in the foot-note on page 505, and there said to be the summer dress of *L. tephrocotis*, we now believe to be a distinct form, which may be named var. *australis*, ALLEN, characterized as follows:—

*Leucosticte tephrocotis*, var. *australis*, ALLEN, MSS. *Leucosticte tephrocotis*, ALLEN, Am. Nat. VI, No. 5, May, 1872. — IB. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Vol. III, No. 6, pp. 121, 162.

CHAR. Similar to var. *tephrocotis*, but without any gray on the head, the red of the abdomen and wing-coverts bright carmine, instead of dilute rose-color, and the bill deep black, instead of yellow tipped with dusky. Prevailing color raw-umber (more earthy than in var. *tephrocotis*), becoming darker on the head and approaching to black on the forehead. Nasal tufts white. Wings and tail dusky, the secondaries and primaries skirted with paler; lesser and middle wing-coverts and tail-coverts, above and below, broadly tipped with rosy carmine, producing nearly uniform patches; abdominal region with the feathers broadly tipped with deep carmine or intense crimson, this covering nearly uniformly the whole surface. Bill and feet deep black.

*Male* (No. 15,724, Mus. C. Z., Mt. Lincoln, Colorado, July 25, 1871; J. A. Allen). Wing, 4.20; tail, 3.10; culmen, .45; tarsus, .70; middle toe, .60.

*Female* (Mt. Lincoln, July 25; J. A. Allen). Wing, 4.00; tail, 3.00. Colors paler and duller, the red almost obsolete.

*Hab.* Breeding on Mt. Lincoln, Colorado, above the timber-line, at an altitude of about 12,000 feet. (July, 1872, J. A. Allen.)

Since the descriptions of the several stages of *L. tephrocotis* were cast, we have received from Mr. H. W. Elliott — Assistant Agent of the United States Treasury Department, stationed at St. Paul's Island, Alaska, an accomplished and energetic collector — numerous specimens of *L. griseinucha* in the breeding plumage. The fact that these specimens have the gray of the head as well defined as do examples in

the winter plumage, while the red is at the same time much intensified, induces us to modify our views expressed on pages 504, 505, in regard to Mr. Allen's Colorado specimens, and to regard them as representing a race which must have the head dusky *at all seasons*, and *not* a seasonal phase of var. *tephrocotis*. The winter plumage probably differs from that described above only in the red being of a soft, rather dilute, rosy tint, instead of a harsh bright carmine; the bill is also probably yellow in winter, since in the breeding specimens of *griseinucha* from Alaska the bill is black, while in winter examples it is yellow, with only the point dusky.

A series of seven fine specimens sent in by Mr. J. H. Batty, the naturalist of Dr. Hayden's expedition, confirm the validity of this form, and even so much as suggest to us the possibility of its eventually proving a distinct species, more nearly related to *L. brunneinucha* than to *L. tephrocotis*. They were collected on some one of the high peaks of Colorado, but as Mr. Batty's notes have not come to hand we cannot tell which. The specimens are all males, and resemble Mr. Allen's specimens, except that they are perhaps more highly colored. They all have the *throat* tinged with carmine, and in some the tinge is very deep, — on one extending over the whole breast and throat, up to the cheeks and bill. We hope to learn soon from Mr. Batty some interesting details regarding this series.

**Centronyx bairdi** (I, 531). The past year has been a remarkably fortunate one for our knowledge of this species, and, owing to the investigations of Mr. C. E. Aiken, Dr. Coues, and Mr. H. W. Henshaw, it cannot now be classed among the rare birds of our country; the total number of specimens collected by these gentlemen amounting to more than one hundred. The first example — the second one then known — was collected by Mr. Aiken in El Paso County, Colorado, October 9, 1872, and, being in the soft autumnal plumage, appeared to be so distinct from the type that, after a careful comparison of the two specimens, Mr. Ridgway wrote Mr. Aiken that it was in his opinion different, and accompanied his letter by a comparative diagnosis of the two supposed species. The Colorado specimen was then described in the *American Naturalist* (Vol. VII, April, 1873, p. 236) as *Centronyx ochrocephalus*, AIKEN. On the 6th of May, 1873, Mr. Aiken obtained another specimen at the same locality; and this one, being forwarded to Mr. Ridgway for comparison, proved to be so decidedly intermediate between the types of *C. bairdi* and *C. "ochrocephalus"* that they immediately suggested the probability of their being seasonal stages of one species, — *C. bairdi* representing the very faded and much abraded midsummer dress; *C. ochrocephalus* being the autumnal dress, probably of a young bird, with the pattern of coloration distinct, and the colors soft and deep; and the May specimen the spring plumage, just intermediate between the two others.

During the past summer (1873) Dr. Coues collected about seventy specimens along the northern border of Dakota, from just west of the Pembina Mountains to the second crossing of the Mouse River. They frequented the open prairie exclusively, associating in vast numbers with *Neocorys spraguei* and *Plectrophanes ornatus*, these three being the most abundant and characteristic birds of the prairie. By the middle of July young birds were already observed; and, equally young ones being taken in the middle of August, it is presumed that two broods were raised. The splendid suite of specimens brought in by Dr. Coues comprises both adult and

young birds. Of the former, many examples exactly match Audubon's type, while others approach very closely Mr. Aiken's specimen in the spring plumage. The young, however, are in a plumage entirely new. We give below descriptions of the several stages of plumage :—

*Adult male in spring* (No. 2,141, Mus. R. R., El Paso County, Colorado, May 6, 1873; C. E. Aiken). Ground-color of the head deep buff, growing paler toward the throat, which is white; crown sharply streaked with deep black, the streaks aggregated laterally so as to form two broken stripes; a cuneate speck of black at the post-superior corner of the auriculars; maxillary stripe deep buff, bounded above and below by continuous stripes of black,—one from the rictus along lower edge of cheeks, the other from side of chin down side of throat. Above pale hair-brown, the feathers paler, or brownish-white, externally, and brownish-black centrally. Beneath white, tinged with buff across the jugulum, where thickly marked with cuneate streaks of deep black; sides sparsely streaked, the streaks more brown. "Legs and lower mandible flesh-color; upper mandible horn-color; toes and claws dusky. Length, 5.62; extent, 9.04." Wing, 2.80; tail, 2.15; culmen, .45; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .60.

*Adult female in summer*, exactly similar, but rather smaller, and the colors duller and paler.

*Young, in first plumage*. Similar in general appearance to the adult in fall plumage, but the markings more suffused. All the contour feathers of the dorsal surface sharply bordered terminally and laterally with white; streaks on the breast heavier and shorter.

*Adult male in autumn* (No. 1,113, Mus. C. E. A., El Paso County, Colorado, October 9, 1872).<sup>1</sup> Ground-color of the head deep ochraceous, deepest on the middle of the crown, and gradually fading to buffy-white on the throat; feathers of the crown with broad, deep black medial streaks, these narrower toward the middle, forming two lateral broadly black-streaked areas, with an intervening, badly defined, deep-ochraceous, narrowly streaked stripe. A distinct black spot behind the upper posterior corner of the auriculars; a smaller one at the middle of their posterior edge, and two black streaks bordering the light-ochraceous maxillary stripe,—a narrow one from the rictus along the lower edge of the deeply ochraceous ear-coverts and suborbital region, and a heavy "bridle" on each side of the throat. Lower parts buffy-white, fading into nearly pure white posteriorly; jugulum crossed by a series of heavy cuneate deep-black streaks, these continuing backward along the sides, but becoming reddish on the flanks; tibiae brownish-gray. Neck, laterally and posteriorly, light ochraceous-yellow, each feather with a sharply defined medial streak of black. Dorsal feathers deep black centrally, then hair-brown (not reddish), and broadly bordered with white, both laterally and terminally. Rump and upper tail-coverts reddish hair-brown, each feather broadly bordered with buffy-white and with a black shaft-streak. General aspect of the wings grayish-pinkish ochraceous, the feathers all blackish centrally; outer web of outer primary pure white. Tail-feathers black, skirted with whitish ashy-ochraceous, this becoming pure white on the lateral pair of feathers, the exterior of which is pale gray centrally. Lining of wing immaculate pure white.

Wing, 3.00; tail, 2.40; culmen, .45; depth of bill, .23; tarsus, .85; middle toe, .63; lateral toes, .20 shorter; hind toe, .35. End of the wing formed by the four outer quills, of which the second and third are equal and longest, the first and fourth equal and just appreciably shorter: tertials considerably longer than the secondaries, and only .20 shorter than the longest primaries. Tail deeply emarginated (fork .20 deep), the lateral feathers longest.

The following measurements of about thirty fresh specimens, kindly furnished us by Dr. Coues, indicate the normal variation in size: "The males range from

<sup>1</sup> This specimen is the type of *C. ochrocephalus*, AIKEN, Am. Nat. VII, April, 1873, p. 236.



5.10 to 5.85 in length, by 9.10 to 9.85 in extent, averaging about 5.65 by 9.50. The shortest-winged specimen was a female, expanding 8.85, though measuring 5.50 in length; the wing ordinarily ranged from 2.75 to 3.00."

Dr. Coues also furnishes the following account of the habits of this species, which we print *verbatim*:

"Out of thirty-one specimens collected July 14 and 15, twenty-nine were males, one female, and one young. This remarkable preponderance of males collected was owing to the fact that these attracted my attention as they sat singing on the tops of the weeds and low bushes; the females being probably down in the grass, incubating, or attending to their young, — at any rate not singing. In general appearance and manners they were so similar to Savanna Sparrows (*Passerculus savanna*) with which they were here associated, that they could only be distinguished at gunshot range after several days' close observation. The song resembles that of the Savanna Sparrow, but may soon be learned; it consists of two or three chirps and an indefinite trill — *chip, chip, chip, chirrrrrrr* — in a mellow tinkling tone. The birds rise from the grass with a quick flickering flight, seldom going far before re-lighting. They remain in this portion of the country at least until October. Though scattered over the prairie, they tend to gather in little colonies; that is to say, one might ride a mile or so without seeing any, and then find numbers in the same spot. After leaving the prairie included in the bend of the Souris River, none were seen on the Coteau de Missouri; though this may have been owing to the lateness of the season. Late in July I scared a female off her nest on the prairie: the bird ran slyly through the grass, like a mouse, for some distance, before taking wing; her actions being like those of *Plectrophanes ornatus* under similar circumstances. Unfortunately, however, the nest was not found; but it will almost certainly be found to be built upon the ground, like that of *Poocætes*, *Passerculus*, and other allies."

We learn by letter (dated October 7, 1873) from Mr. H. W. Henshaw, the naturalist of Lieutenant Wheeler's expedition, that he has obtained (somewhere along the line of their route, apparently in New Mexico, but the locality is not mentioned) about thirty specimens of what he supposes to be this bird in the fall plumage. In regard to their habits, Mr. Henshaw writes as follows: "It is essentially a plain bird, with habits about half-way between those of the Savanna and Yellow-winged Sparrows, both of which were abundant in the same locality."

**Plectrophanes ornatus** (I, 520). The abundant material brought in by recent collectors, among whom we may mention particularly Mr. Allen (see Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. III, No. 6, p. 135) and Dr. Coues, throws additional light upon the relationship of this species and *P. "melanopus"* (I, 521), and affords conclusive evidence of their identity. The latter is merely a high stage of plumage, with the lesser coverts deep black, instead of brown as in midsummer, and rufous borders to the black feathers of the lower parts, which become worn off in midsummer.

**Passerculus alaudinus** (I, 537). Dr. Cooper informs me that in July, 1873, he found young but fully fledged birds of this species quite common along the beach near Santa Barbara, and where, possibly, they may have been mistaken by Dr. Heermann for *P. rostratus*. One he shot closely resembled in plumage the young *Melospiza heermanni*. They had been, without doubt, hatched on the

grassy hills near by, and may breed farther south on the mountains. *P. anthinus* was numerous all summer in the neighboring marshes, but not away from salt water.

**Passerculus princeps** (I, 540). Additional specimens collected at Ipswich, Mass., by Mr. Maynard, and on Long Island by Mr. Lawrence, confirm the validity of this form, and likewise considerably extend its known range.

**Coturniculus passerinus**, var. **perpallidus** (I, 556). First described in Coues's Key, October, 1872, p. 137.

**Coturniculus lecontei** (I, 558). Seven specimens of this interesting species were collected in August, 1873, by Dr. Coues, while attached to the Northern Boundary Survey. Five of them were obtained August 9, at the head-waters of the Souris River, on a boundless prairie. They inhabited the low portions of the prairie, where the grass was tall, recalling to mind the sea-shore marshes inhabited by the *Ammodromi* of the Atlantic coast. In habits they entirely resembled the seaside Buntings (*A. caudacutus* and *A. maritimus*).

These specimens reveal the fact that Leconte's Bunting is quite as much an *Ammodromus* as a *Coturniculus*, being, in fact, just intermediate between *A. caudacutus* and *C. henslowi*, agreeing most nearly with the latter in style of coloration, and exactly resembling the former in form, the rectrices being even longer, stiffer, and more acute. This renders it necessary to unite *Ammodromus* and *Coturniculus* into one genus, recognizing them as subgenera, definable chiefly by the different style of coloration of the superior surface in the two groups. The name *Ammodromus* stands as the proper designation of the genus, being of earlier date.

Several stages of plumage are represented in the series obtained by Dr. Coues; and, the diagnosis of the species given on p. 552 being taken from a very defective specimen, we give here short descriptions taken from the elegant skins before us.

*Adult male* (No. 3,442, Coll. E. C.). Ground-color of the head white, tinged with buff on the maxilla, and with ash on the auriculars; crown with two broad black stripes, separated by a narrow medial one of whitish; nuchal feathers bright rufous, edged with ashy-white, and shafted with black; dorsal feathers black, broadly edged exteriorly with white, and interiorly narrowly skirted with rufous. Beneath entirely white, tinged on the throat with buff, and streaked on the sides—from the breast to the flanks—with black. Length, 5.00; extent, 7.10; wing, 2.10; tail, 2.00; culmen, .42; tarsus, 68.

*Adult female* (No. 3,443, E. C.). Resembling the male, but, being in less abraded plumage, the colors more pronounced. The head is deep buff (just as in *Ammodromus caudacutus*), the auriculars and lores distinctly grayish-white, and the medial stripe of the crown ashy-white, except the anterior third, which is buff. On the lower parts, the whole lower side of the head, the entire breast, sides, flanks, and tibiae, are deep buff, the sides sharply streaked with black. The abdomen, anal region, and crissum are pure white, in marked contrast. Length, 5.00; extent, 7.00; wing, 2.00; tail, 2.10; culmen, .45; tarsus, .70.

*Young* (Nos. 3,444, 3,445, and 3,446, E. C.). Ground-color above dull buff, below white; the pattern of the old birds seen in the markings, which, however, are pure black, all red and brown tints being absent,—except on the wings and tail, which are nearly as in the adult.

**Ammodromus maritimus** (I, 560). Mr. Maynard has discovered a very remarkable new local form of this species in Florida, which he has named var. *nigrescens*, possessing the following characters:—

*Zonotrichia leucophrys*, var. *gambeli*, Ridgway.

**CHAR.** Above black, nearly uniform, and with a faint brownish cast; dorsal feathers with their outer edges narrowly grayish-white; remiges and tail-feathers edged with olive-brown: edge of the wing bright gamboge-yellow; supra-loral stripe deep yellow to above the middle of the eye; an obscure supra-auricular stripe of olive-grayish. Lores, auriculars, and cheeks nearly uniform black; lower parts pure white, covered with broad streaks of black, the anal region and middle line of the throat only unstreaked. Wing, 2.40; tail, 2.50; culmen, .55; tarsus, .95; middle toe, .55. (1855, Coll. R. R.)

Specimens of var. *maritimus* from Fort Macon, North Carolina, are much darker than Connecticut examples.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys**, var. **gambeli** (I, 569). Specimens from the Pacific Coast, which are true *gambeli*, are uniformly different from Middle Province examples in several important particulars; the colors are all darker, the ash more sombre, and the dorsal streaks sooty-black instead of chestnut-brown. In everything except the coloration of the head they closely resemble *Z. coronata*. The Middle Province form may be named *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, var. *intermedia*, Ridgway.

**Junco** (I, 578). For a new synopsis of the genus, see Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 613.

**Junco hyemalis**, var. **aikeni** (I, 584). First described in Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 615.

**Junco oregonus** (I, 584). Dr. Cooper writes that the Oregon Snowbird frequents the Sierra Nevada, lat. 39°, up to an elevation of 9,000 feet. He found a nest with three eggs at an elevation of about 7,000 feet, July 28, 1870.

**Poospiza belli** (I, 593). A fall specimen from Dr. Cooper, collected at Saticoy, California, October 8, 1872, shows a new plumage of this form, and substantiates the remarkable difference, in every stage of plumage, from var. *nevadensis* (I, 594). It differs from specimens of the latter in the corresponding dress, in the following particulars:—

Sub-maxillary bridle deep black, very broad, and reaching to the bill; pectoral spot conspicuous, black; sides strongly washed with ochraceous; above dark plumbeous instead of light ash; no trace of streaks on the back. Wing, 2.80; tail, 3.00; culmen, .40; tarsus, .80. (No. 63,652, Mus. S. I.)

**Spizella monticola** (II, 3). Collected by Henshaw in Southern Utah, in October, 1872. Probably found throughout the Middle Province region.

**Spizella socialis** (II, 7). Dr. Cooper informs us that the Chipping Sparrow frequents the Sierra Nevada, near latitude 39°, up to 9,000 feet elevation, in summer, and is the only species of *Spizella* to be seen there at that season.

**Spizella pallida**, var. **breweri** (II, 13). Dr. Cooper met with this species arriving from the South, in small flocks, April, 1873, frequenting bushy grounds ten miles inland. They had the song and habits as described, but were not seen in the low country in summer.

**Melospiza lincolni** (II, 31). Dr. Cooper writes that in July, 1870, he found this species numerous at and near the summit of the Central Railroad in an

elevation of from 7,000 to 9,000 feet. They were always about marshy thickets, often close to fields of perpetual snow. They had there raised their young, which were mostly fledged. He found a nest with one egg on the ground. As he found this July 27, he thinks that without doubt it raises two broods in a season even in that subalpine region. The song he found quite different from that of the other *Melospizæ*, being fainter, more lively and continuous, like that of some Wren or Warbler.

***Melospiza palustris*** (II, 34). Collected in Southern Utah (Washington), October 23, 1872, by Mr. Henshaw. (Mus. S. I., No. 63,500.)

***Peucæa æstivalis*, var. *arizonæ*** (II, 41). First described in Am. Nat. VII, October, 1873, p. 616.

***Peucæa carpalis***. An additional species of *Peucæa* has been discovered in Arizona by that diligent collector, Lieutenant (now Captain) Charles Bendire, U. S. A. It has been described (Am. Nat. VII, June, 1873, p. 322) by Dr. Coues as *Peucæa carpalis*. Its characters are as follows:—

*Peucæa carpalis*, COUES. Rufous-shouldered Sparrow.

SP. CHAR. Resembling in general appearance a large *Spizella pusilla*, but with rufous lesser wing-coverts, and blackish rictal and infra-maxillary streaks. Above grayish earth-brown, each feather with the medial portion dusky, forming conspicuous black streaks on the dorsal region, and dusky centres to the wing-coverts and tertials. Nape and rump plain, and more ashy. Crown and lesser wing-coverts plain rufous, the former divided anteriorly with a whitish medial line. Beneath ashy-white, including a well-defined superciliary and maxillary stripe, which have a slight buffy tinge. Throat nearly pure white, bordered on each side by a conspicuous narrow streak of black; whitish maxillary stripe bordered above by a dusky rictal streak. Bill reddish, darker on the culmen. Tarsi dilute brown; toes horn-brown. Wing, 2.50; tail, 2.75; culmen, .45; tarsus, .80; middle toe, .55.

*Hab.* Tucson, Arizona. (No. 62,372. September, 1872, Captain C. Bendire, U. S. A.)

Another specimen, supposed to be a female, in winter plumage (Tucson, January 10, 1873) differs quite appreciably in its markings and colors. The crown is more streaked, every feather being edged laterally with ashy-gray; the blackish streaks on the back and scapulars are more distinct, and the inner web of the lateral tail-feather is broadly bordered with white terminally. It measures, wing, 2.50; tail, 2.90; culmen, .45; tarsus, .70. "Length, 5.75; stretch, 7.80."

Captain Bendire informs me that he found this species rather common in the vicinity of Tucson. It was generally seen in company with *Poospiza bilineata*. Its usual call-note resembled the syllables *zib-zib-zib*. He believed it to be a resident of Arizona throughout the year. It commences nesting early in June, generally building in the small mesquite bushes, sometimes not over six inches, seldom more than four feet, from the ground. The nests are composed of fine dry grasses and rootlets, and lined with the fine, slender seed-tops of the secotow or rye-grass, and sometimes with a few hairs. The nest is very deep, and is firmly fixed into a fork of the bush in which it is built. The eggs, when fresh, are of a pale green color, and average .73 of an inch in length by .58 in breadth, are unspotted, are generally four, seldom five, in a nest. One nest with four eggs was found September 11, 1872.



**Passerella** (II, 49). The capture of a specimen exactly intermediate between *P. iliaca* and *P. townsendii*, at Saticoy, California, December 14, 1872, by Dr. Cooper, renders it extremely probable that all the known forms of this genus are but geographical races of one species. The characters of this specimen (No. 63,651) are as follows: Most like *iliaca* in reddish tints and coloration of the head, with occasional nearly pure ashy lights, but with the suffused pattern of *townsendii*. Wing, 3.60; tail, 3.60; culmen, .50; tarsus, 1.00.

**Passerella megarhynchus** (II, 57). Dr. Cooper found this species common between 5,000 and 7,000 feet elevation, on the Central Pacific Railroad line, where most of the country was still covered with snow. One or two were to be found in every thicket at distances of a quarter of a mile, already paired and having selected their summer residence, having remained in close proximity to the snowy region all winter. In July, on a second visit to the mountains, he observed them still singing occasionally, at Truckee, near 6,000 feet altitude, on the east slope.

**Euspiza americana** (II, 65). According to Mr. Allen this species is abundant at Denver, Colorado, being found entirely across the Plains to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

**Guiraca cærulea** (II, 77). Has been obtained in El Paso County, Colorado, by Mr. Aiken.

**Cardinalis virginianus**, var. **igneus** (II, 103). Has been found in El Paso County, Colorado. Specimens from Eastern Kansas, collected by Mr. Allen, seem also to be referable to this form.

**Pipilo erythrophthalmus** (II, 109). Specimens collected by Dr. Coues at Pembina, Minnesota, in June, 1873, have (both males and females) a greater or less number of minute white specks more or less distinctly indicated on the portion where the large white spots of the western forms are located. This points to the probability that all the black races ranged in the synopsis under *maculatus* (including the latter itself) must be referred to *erythrophthalmus*.

**Pipilo mesoleucus** (II, 125). Captain Bendire found this species breeding in Southern Arizona, in the neighborhood of Tucson. One nest was found August 2, another September 4, 1872. Both were built in mesquite-trees, and were six feet from the ground, — an unusual position in birds of this family. The eggs are also peculiar, and differ from any of this genus I have ever met with, having more resemblance to eggs of *Sturnellæ*, especially to the *militaris* of South America. The eggs from one nest are one inch in length by .73 in breadth, have a bright white ground, with a slight tinge of bluish, and are boldly plashed, especially around the larger end, with distinct deep dashes of reddish and purplish brown. A few of these blotches are scattered irregularly over the entire egg, but the greater portion are grouped around the more obtuse end. The eggs are of oval shape, both ends rounded, one slightly less than the other. The eggs in another nest are more nearly spherical, with less difference in the ends; the ground-color is more distinctly white; the spots, of reddish-brown, are finer and more concentrated about the larger end; and the faint markings of purplish are much more numerous. These measure .74 by .90 of an inch.

This species has also been found resident in El Paso County, Colorado, by Mr. Aiken.

**Pipilo aberti** (II, 128). Captain Bendire found this species breeding abundantly in the vicinity of Tucson, in Southern Arizona. The nests were not on the ground, as is usual among the more northern forms of *Pipilos*, but in trees and in bushes at the height of several feet from the ground. One nest was taken July 28, in a small ash-tree, and another was found on the same day in a willow-tree, more than eight feet from the ground. The eggs bear a close resemblance to those of *Pipilo fuscus* and to those of *P. albigula*, having a ground-color of very light blue, marked almost exclusively around the larger end with a wreath of irregular blotches of dark purplish-brown. They are of a rounded oval shape, are quite obtuse at one end, and vary in length from .97 of an inch to .88, and in breadth from .76 to .75.

**Pipilo chlorurus** (II, 131). Dr. Cooper met with none of this species in the Sierra Nevada between 3,000 and 7,000 feet elevation in April, 1870, when they were leisurely working their way up from the lower country; but in July he found them from Truckee, 6,000 feet on the east slope, up to the summit, 7,000 feet, but not higher. They were then feeding half-grown young. Dr. Albert Kellogg found a nest on the ground, with four eggs, spotted near the larger end on a bluish ground. The males were still singing occasionally and very melodiously, and had the same cry of alarm or anger as the *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Dr. Cooper also met with this species at Clear Lake, near the end of September, showing that they probably breed in the northern Coast Range.

**Dolichonyx oryzivorus** (II, 149). Specimens from every portion of the Plains, and west to the Great Basin, have the black intenser and more continuous, the nuchal patch clear ochraceous-white, the scapulars and rump unshaded white, and the white of the back confined to a median line. The bill and feet are also jet-black, instead of horn-color. They constitute var. *albinucha*, Ridgway.

**Icterus cucullatus** (II, 193). Except in the materials, which difference may be more local than specific, the nests of this species are hardly distinguishable from those of *I. spurius*. A nest from Cape St. Lucas (S. I. No. 4,954), collected May, 1860, by Mr. Xantus, is basket-shaped and pendulous, suspended on two sides to the numerous twigs of each fork of a drooping branch. In structure it is exactly like that of *I. spurius*, and is composed of dry wiry grasses, lined scantily with vegetable down. The length is six inches, lower side of aperture only two and a half inches from the bottom. Another (S. I. No. 1,940) taken May 20, 1859, at San José, Lower California, by Mr. Xantus, is a very elaborately wrought basket-shaped nest. The circumference of the circular rim is much less than the greatest girth of the nest. The lower walls and base of the nest are very thick. The whole is composed of fine wiry grasses and scantily lined with vegetable down and soft flaxy fibres. The external diameter is 5.00 inches, the internal 2.10, height about 3.00, and the depth of the cavity 2.80.

Captain Charles Bendire met with this species in Southern Arizona. It was first noticed by him on the 15th of April, but he thinks they had arrived nearly ten days previously, and that the date of their coming may be given as during the

first week of April. He describes it as a shy, active, and restless bird, generally frequenting the extreme tops of the tallest cottonwood-trees near the borders of the watercourses, which, however, are usually dry. There the bird flutters through the dense foliage in search of insects, and is scarcely ever seen for more than an instant at a time. It commences building about the first of June. The nest is suspended from the extremities of the lower branches of an ash, walnut, mesquite, or cottonwood tree, and is exclusively composed of fine wire-like grasses, which are made use of while green and pliable, and sparsely lined with the silky fibres of a species of *Asclepias*. These grasses are interlaced in such a complicated manner as to form, even when dry, a very strong structure. The dimensions of a nest are: Inner diameter, three inches; inside depth the same; outside from five and a half to four inches wide and about four deep. The eggs are from two to four in number, usually three, are of a pale bluish-white ground, spotted with dark lilac and umber-brown about the larger end. The largest eggs measure one inch by .64. Captain Bendire adds that he cannot regard this Oriole as a fine singer. Besides a usual chattering note resembling the syllables *char-char-char*, frequently repeated, it has a call-note something like *hui-wit*, which is also several times repeated.

**Icterus baltimore** (II, 195). Extends its range westward to the Rocky Mountains. Collected in El Paso County, Colorado, by Mr. Aiken.

**Icterus bullockii** (II, 199). Extends eastward to Eastern Kansas, where it is not uncommon. (See Snow's Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas, 1873.)

**Corvus cryptoleucus** (II, 242). According to Mr. Aiken this species is abundant, and nearly replaces *C. carnivorus* along the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, as far north as Cheyenne.

Captain Bendire found this a resident species in Southern Arizona, and met with two nests at the base of the St. Catharine Mountains, near Tucson. One of these contained three, the other four eggs. These he described as very light colored, so pale that if mixed with hundreds of others of this family they could be picked out without difficulty. Their ground-color is said to be a very pale green, with darker markings running more into lines than spots; in fact, very few spots were found on either set. The size of the largest was 1.85 inches by 1.33, that of the largest 1.70 by 1.19. They were not common in the vicinity of Tucson.

**Cyanura** (II, 271). For a special treatment of the races of *C. stelleri*, see Am. Journ. Science and Arts, January, 1873.

**Cyanocitta californica** (II, 298). Dr. Cooper has ascertained that this species does occur on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, but lower down than the region he visited in 1863. He found a few at Verdi, close to the eastern boundary-line of California, at about 4,500 feet elevation, in July, 1870. He saw none elsewhere.

**Tyrannus vociferans** (II, 327). Captain Bendire writes that this species arrives in the neighborhood of Tucson about the middle of April, but does not commence nesting until the middle of June. All the nests he found were difficult to get at, being generally placed on a branch of a large cottonwood-tree, and at a distance from the trunk. The nest is described as very large for the size of the

bird, composed of sticks, weeds, dry grasses, and lined with hair, wool, and the inner soft fibres of bark of the cottonwood. The usual complement of eggs is three, seldom four. They measure from 1.00 by .75 to 1.10 by .80 of an inch, are of a creamy-white color, with large isolated spots of a reddish-brown, scattered principally about the larger end.

**Myiarchus** (II, 329). For a discussion of the races of *M. lawrencii* considered in their relation to climatic color-variation, see Am. Journ. Science and Arts, December, 1872.

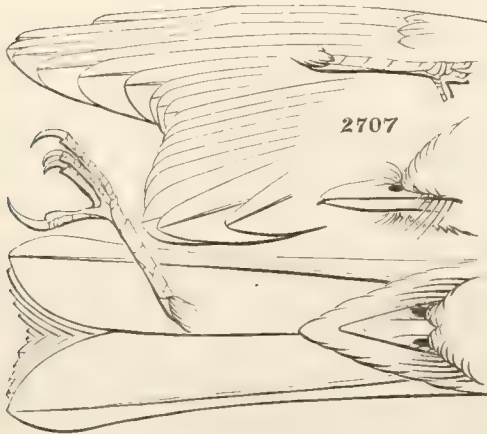
**Sayornis** (II, 339). The outlines of species of *Sayornis* given below are additional to those already published.

**Empidonax brunneus** (II, 363). Specimens in the collection of the Boston Society bear the MSS. name of *E. olivus*. But we cannot find a reference to this name.

**Empidonax minimus** (II, 372). Has been collected in El Paso County, Colorado, by Mr. Aiken.

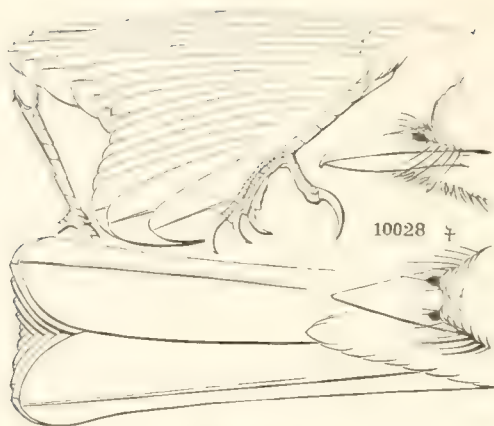


*Sayornis sayus.*



*Sayornis fuscus*



*Sayornis nigricans.*

**Empidonax obscurus** (II, 381). Dr. Cooper found a few of this species wintering in a large grove of balsam, poplars, and willows, which retained most of their old leaves till spring, near San Buenaventura. Those shot were remarkably gray, and were supposed to have been blown down from the borders of the desert by the violent northeast-wind.

**Pyrocephalus mexicanus** (II, 387). Captain Bendire found the Red Flycatcher quite abundant in Southern Arizona, where they breed as early as April. They were most common in the neighborhood of Reledo Creek, near Tucson, and were generally found in the neighborhood of water. Their nests were in various situations, in one instance in a cottonwood-tree thirty feet from the ground, in another in the forks of a mesquite not more than ten feet from the ground. The nests were small, slight, and loosely made, and not readily preserved. They were made externally of twigs, fine bark, stems of plants, etc., and lined with hair and feathers. The usual number of eggs was three, and never more. Except in size these bear a close resemblance to the eggs of *Milvulus forficatus*. Their ground is a rich cream-color, to which the deep purplish-brown markings with which they are blotched imparts a slight tinge of red. These markings are few, bold, and conspicuous, and encircle the larger end with an almost continuous ring. In shape they are of a roundish oval, and measure .66 of an inch in length by .55 in breadth. The nest and eggs of this species were also obtained at Cape St. Lucas by Mr. John Xantus, and the eggs correspond. Dr. Cooper found two male birds of this species in a grove near the mouth of the Santa Clara River, six miles from San Buenaventura, in October, 1872. They had obtained their perfect plumage, but seemed to be young birds. They hunted insects much like a *Sayornis*, and uttered only a faint chirp.

**Chordeiles popetue**, var. **minor** (II, 400). Specimens from Miami, Florida, collected by Mr. Maynard, agree very nearly with typical examples of var. *minor* from Cuba, both in size and color, and should possibly be referred to that race. A male (7,414, Mus. C. J. M.) measures: wing, 7.00; tail, 4.15. The colors are those of var. *popetue*, with less rufous than in the single specimen of *minor* with which it has been compared.

**Chordeiles texensis** (II, 406). Dr. Cooper shot a single specimen of this species near San Buenaventura, April 18, 1873.

**Antrostomus carolinensis** (II, 410). This species has been detected by Mr. Ridgway in Southern Illinois (Wabash County), where it is a rare summer sojourner.

**Panyptila melanoleuca** (II, 421). Dr. Cooper saw many of this species in the cañon of Santa Anna, flying about inaccessible cliffs of sandstone, where they doubtless had nests, May 20. He saw also them near San Buenaventura, August 25, when they came down to the valley from the sandstone cliffs ten miles distant. They afterwards hunted insects almost daily near the coast, flying high during the calm morning, but when there were sea-breezes flying low and against it. After a month they disappeared, and none were seen until December 14, when they were again seen until the 20th. None were seen during the rains, or until February 26, when they reappeared, and after April 5 they retired to the mountains.

**Nephœcetes niger** (II, 429). Dr. Cooper informs us that a fine specimen of this rare bird was taken at San Francisco in the spring of 1870, and brought to Mr. F. Gruber. It had, from some cause, been driven to alight on the ground, from which it was not able to rise, and was taken alive. The exact date was not noted.

**Chætura vauxi** (II, 435). Dr. Cooper states that in the spring of 1873 this Swift appeared as early as April 22 near San Buenaventura. The year before he first saw them near San Diego on the 26th.

**Geococcyx californianus** (II, 472). Has been found in El Paso County, Colorado, by Mr. Aiken.

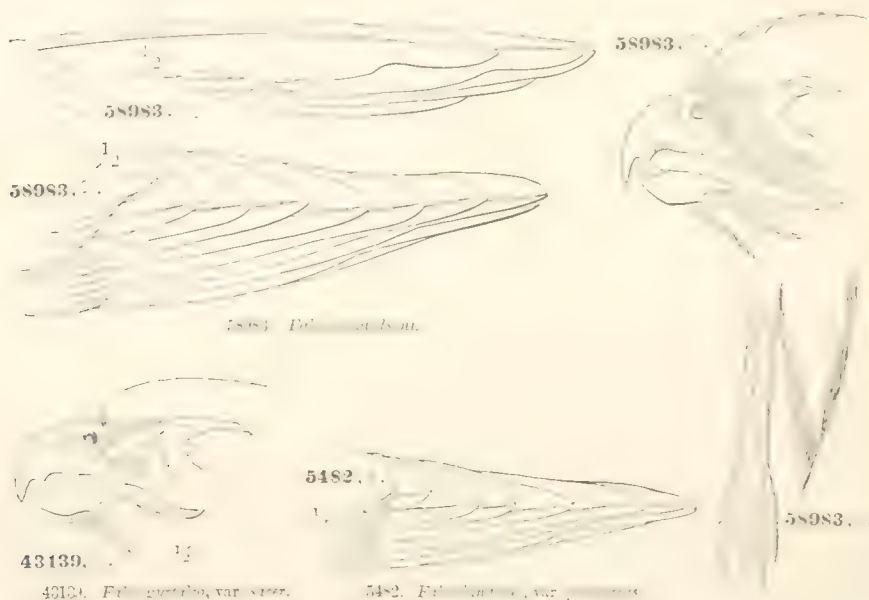
**Picus gairdneri** (II, 512). Four eggs of this Woodpecker were taken by Mr. William A. Cooper near Santa Cruz, Cal., from a hole in a tree, one side of which was much decayed. Four is said to be the usual number of their eggs, although five were found in one instance. The eggs resemble those of *P. pubescens*, and measure .75 of an inch in length by .57 in breadth.

**Sphyrapicus varius** (II, 539). Collected in El Paso County, Colorado, by Mr. Aiken.

**Centurus uropygialis** (II, 558). Captain Bendire found this Woodpecker the most common of the family in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona, where it was resident throughout the year. Like nearly all of its kindred, it is an exceedingly noisy bird. It appears to be a resident species throughout the year in all the southern portions of the Territory. Its favorite localities for nesting appear to be in the gigantic trunks of the large *Cereus giganteus*, which plants are called by the natives Suwarrows. These are easily excavated, and form a remarkably safe place in which to rear their young ones, on account of the many thorns with which these cacti are protected. Their eggs are usually four in number, but sometimes are only two, and resemble those of all the other kinds of Woodpeckers in their color and in their rounded oval shape. They average .98 of an inch in length and .76 in breadth. Usually two, and occasionally even three, broods are raised in a season.

**Strix pratincola** (III, 13). Dr. Cooper informs us that, though most of these Owls are resident in California south of latitude 35°, there is a migration southward in fall from the north. Great numbers of them appeared near San Buenaventura about October 20, 1872, for a few days, and most of them went still farther southward. They return north about the first of April. On the 12th of April he found a nest built four feet up in a pepper tree, *Schinus molle*, forming part of a hedge, composed of coarse sticks, straws, and dry horse-dung inside, shallow but strongly built, and containing two eggs.

**Falconidæ** (III, 103). The following outlines of the *Falconidæ* were omitted in their proper places.



**Chamæpelia passerina** (III, 389). Dr. Cooper states that an individual of this species was killed by Mr. Lorquin at San Francisco, in May, 1870. Mr. Lorquin also obtained several at San Gabriel, Los Angeles County, several years previous.

**Tetrao obscurus** (III, 421). Dr. Cooper found this species in April, 1870, at the edge of the melting snow, near Cisco, about 6,000 feet altitude. They were still more numerous at Emigrant Gap, 5,300 feet altitude, where snow lay only in patches, and at Truckee, on the east slope, where there was no snow, and where he found two of their eggs in a deserted nest within sight of the town. In July he found them near Verdi, near the State line. This is the limit of their range. They also frequent the edge of perpetual snow, at an elevation of 9,000 feet, more numerous than below.

**Ortyx virginianus**, var. **floridanus** (III, 469, footnote). Specimens from Miami, Fla., exhibit the peninsular extreme of this species. They are altogether more like var. *cubanensis* than like *virginianus* proper, yet they differ uniformly in

such essential respects from the Cuban form that they merit a distinctive name. The characteristic features of this form are the following:

**CHAR.** Above, washed with black, especially on the center of the back, being washed, or tinged, with rufous, the sides and throat quite conspicuously bordered with whitish. The whole gray surface more or less mottled or barred with black. The head-stripes are nearly uniformly black, with only a little rusty mixed in the occiput; the black gular collar is much extended, encroaching on the throat anteriorly, so as to leave only an inch, or less, of white, and posteriorly invades the jugulum, so that there is more than an inch of continuous black, and over this distance where black predominates. The entire abdomen, anal region, and breast are heavily barred with black, the black bars on the breast almost equalling the white ones in width. The sides, flanks, and crissum are nearly uniform rufous, the feathers of the former with white edges, broken by the extensions of the black streak which runs inside the white, while the latter have heavy black medial streaks and white terminal spaces.

The female is similar, except in the color of the head, which is exactly that of var. *terrestris*.

Wing, ♂, 4.30–4.40; ♀, 4.35. Culmen, .60–.65; tarsus, 1.15–1.20; middle toe, 1.05–1.10.

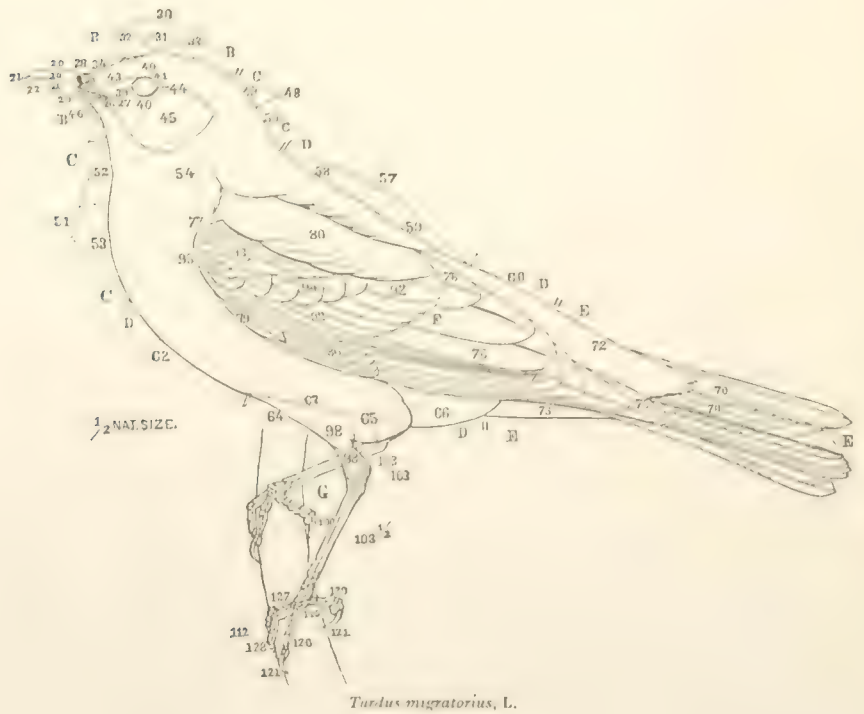
**Oreortyx pictus** (III, 475). Dr. Cooper found these birds already paired near the summit of the Sierra Nevada, where the snow was but half melted off, and they scarcely descended below the limits of the snow in the coldest weather. In July he saw young birds just hatched near Truckee, at an elevation of 6,000 feet. This was on the 24th. On the 28th another brood, a little older, was seen at the foot of Mt. Stanford, about 8,000 feet above the sea. Most of the broods, however, were nearly fledged at that time. Dr. Cooper also mentions that he found this Quail not rare in the mountains east of San Diego above an elevation of 3,800 feet. He thought, also, that he heard this bird in the Santa Anna range east of Anaheim. It also exists in the Santa Inez Mountains, sixteen miles east of San Buenaventura, at an altitude of from 3,000 to 4,000 feet. It seems to be confined to the zone of coniferous trees, rarely if ever coming below them. Mr. Henshaw has obtained this species at Apache, in Arizona.

**Lophortyx gambeli** (III, 482). Captain Bendire found this Quail breeding in the vicinity of Tucson, in Arizona, near Rillito Creek, occasionally nesting in situations above the ground. One nest, seen June 7, 1872, contained three fresh eggs. It was two feet above the ground, on a willow stump, and in an exposed place, near the creek. The nest was composed of the leaves of the cottonwood-tree. In some instances he found as many as eighteen eggs in one nest. These closely resemble the eggs of the California Quail, so much so as to be hardly distinguishable from them. They are all of a rounded oval shape, sharply tapering at one end, and quite obtuse at the other. They measure 1.24 inches in length by one inch in their largest breadth. Their ground-color varies from a deep cream to a light drab. Some are sparingly marked with large and well-defined spots, most of them circular in shape, and of a rich purplish-brown color. In others the whole surface is closely sprinkled with minute spots of yellowish-brown, intermingled with which are larger spots of a dark purple. This species was obtained in Southern Utah by Mr. Henshaw.



## II.

### EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN DESCRIBING THE EXTERNAL FORM OF BIRDS.



#### REFERENCES TO THE FIGURE.

N. B. In the figure the adjacent regions are separated by a double bar, with the letters belonging to each affixed.

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. The body in general.    | E. The region of the tail |
| B. The region of the head. | F. " " " wings.           |
| C. " " " neck.             | G. " " " legs.            |
| D. " " " trunk.            | H. The feathers.          |

NOTE.—I am under obligations to Professor Sunderall of Stockholm and Dr. Schläter of London for assistance in correcting and improving the present article. S. F. BAIRD.

**B. Head.**

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9. Bill in general.                | 32. Front head (sinciput). |
| 10. Maxilla.                       | 33. Hind head (occiput).   |
| 11. Mandible.                      | 34. Forehead.              |
| 20. Rostrum.                       | 36. Frontal points.        |
| 21. Tip of maxilla.                | 39. Lores.                 |
| 22. Keel.                          | 40. Ophthalmic region.     |
| 23. Angle of chin.                 | 41. Orbits.                |
| 27. Angle of mouth.                | 42. Checks.                |
| 28. Commissure.                    | 43. Eyebrows.              |
| 28½. Nostrils.                     | 44. Temples.               |
| 30. Cap (pileus), includes 32, 33. | 45. Parotics.              |
| 31. Crown (vertex).                | 46. Chin.                  |

**C. Neck.**

- |                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 48. Hind neck (includes 49, 50). | 52. Throat.    |
| 49. Nape.                        | 53. Jugulum.   |
| 50. Scruff.                      | 54. Side neck. |
| 51. Fore neck (includes 52, 53). |                |

**D. Trunk or Body.**

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 57. Back (includes 58, 59).           | 62. Breast.                   |
| 58. Upper back.                       | 63. Abdomen (includes 64, 65) |
| 59. Lower back.                       | 64. Epigastrium.              |
| 60. Rump.                             | 65. Belly.                    |
| 61. Mantle (back and wings together). | 66. Crissum.                  |

**E. Tail.**

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 70. Tail feathers (or rectrices). | 73. Lower tail coverts. |
| 72. Upper tail coverts.           |                         |

**F. Wings.**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 75. Primary quills.     | 89. Secondary coverts (include 92, 93, 94). |
| 76. Secondary quills.   | 92. Greater wing coverts.                   |
| 77. Bend of wing.       | 93. Lesser wing coverts.                    |
| 79. False wing (alula). | 94. Middle wing coverts.                    |
| 80. Scapulars.          | 95. Edge of wing.                           |
| 86. Primary coverts.    |   |

**G. Legs.**

- |                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 97. Thigh (concealed under skin). | 116. Toes.       |
| 98. Shin (tibia).                 | 126. Outer toe.  |
| 103. Heel joint.                  | 127. Inner toe.  |
| 103½. Tarsus.                     | 128. Middle toe. |
| 112. Foot.                        | 129. Hind toe.   |

For the purpose of defining the form, markings, coloration, and other peculiarities of birds, the different regions of the body have received names by which intelligible reference can be made to any portion. It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to say that all living birds have a head supported on a neck, with jaws extended into a bill covered with a horny sheath, or with skin, the two jaws situated one

above the other, and always destitute of teeth. The anterior pair of limbs is developed into wings which, however, are not always capable of use in flight; the posterior serve as legs for the support of the body in an oblique or nearly erect position. The body is covered with feathers of variable structure and character, both in the young bird and the old. (The wings are apparently wanting in some fossil species.)

The following terms, English and Latin, are those most generally employed in describing the external form of birds, and are principally as defined by Illiger. In cases where there is no suitable English word in use, the Latin equivalent only is given. The figure selected for illustration, drawn by Mr. R. Ridgway, is that of the common American robin (*Turdus migratorius*, L.), and will be familiar to most students of ornithology.

### A. Body in General (*Corpus*).

1. **Feathers** (*Pluma*). A dry elastic object, with a central stem at one end forming a hollow horny tube implanted in the skin at its tip, the other feathered on opposite sides.
2. **Quills** (*Pennæ*). The large stiff feathers implanted in the posterior edge of the wing and in the tail.
3. **Plumage** (*Ptilosis*). The general feathery covering of the body.
4. **Unfeathered** (*Implumis*). A portion of skin in which no feathers are inserted.
5. **Upper parts** (*Notæum*). The entire upper surface of the animal. (Sometimes restricted to the trunk.)
6. **Lower parts** (*Gastræum*). The entire lower surface of the animal. (Sometimes restricted to the trunk.)
7. **Anterior portion** (*Stethiæum*). The forward part of the body (about half), both upper and under surfaces, including the chest.
8. **Posterior portion** (*Uvæum*). The hinder portion of the body (about half), including the abdominal cavity.

### B. The Head (*Caput*).

9. **Bill** (*Rostrum*). The projecting jaws, one above the other, united by a hinge joint behind, and covered by a horny sheath, or a skin, and enclosing the mouth.
10. **Maxilla, or upper jaw** (*Maxilla*).
11. **Mandible, or lower jaw** (*Mandibula*).
12. **Ramphotheca**. The horny covering, or sheath of the jaws.
13. **Rhinotheca**. The covering of the upper jaw.
14. **Gnathotheca**. The covering of the lower jaw.
15. **Cere** (*Cera*, or *Ceroma*). A skin at the base of the maxilla, in certain birds. (In birds without a horny sheath to the bill, the cere may be considered as extending to its very tip.)
16. **Edges of bill** (*Tomia*). The margins of upper and lower jaws where they come in contact. We have thus a
17. **Maxillary tomium**, and a
18. **Mandibular tomium**.
19. **Gape or Commissure** (*Commissura*). The junction of the tomia, or of the two bills.

**Head** (*Continued*).

20. **Ridge** (*Culmen*). The upper outline of the bill when viewed laterally ; extending from base of bill to the
21. **Tip** (*Isternum*).
22. **Keel** (*Gonyx*). The lower outline of the bill viewed laterally ; extending from the angle of the chin to the tip.
23. **Angle of the chin** (*Angulus mentalis*). The point where the two branches, or rami, of the lower jaw
24. (*Gnathidia*, *Rami*) unite, thence to be continued to its tip as the
25. **Myxa** (*Symphysis*).
26. **Malar region** (*Regio malaris*). The outside of the base of lower jaw ; usually covered with feathers.
27. **Angle of the mouth** (*Angulus oris*). The angle formed by the mandible and maxilla ; the posterior boundary of the gape or commissure, the tip of bill being the anterior.
28. **Nostrils** (*Nares*).
29. **Head**, as restricted (*Caput*). The head, exclusive of the bill.
30. **Cap** (*Pileus*). The whole top of head from the base of bill to nape.
31. **Crown** (*Vertex*). The highest central portion of the top of head (between the ears).
32. **Sinciput** (*Sinciput*). The anterior half of cap (from bill to middle of crown).
33. **Occiput** (*Occiput*). The posterior half of cap, (from middle of crown to the nape).
34. **Forehead** (*Frons*). From base of bill to crown (usually anterior to line of eye).
35. **Nape** (*Nucha*). See 49.
36. **Frontal points** (*Antice*). The two projecting feathered angles of the forehead embracing the base of the culmen, or included between the frontal angle of the maxilla and the angle of the mouth (not always present).
37. **Mastax** (*Mastax*). The side of the fore part of the head, adjacent to the base of the maxilla, and distinguished by its feathers or its color.
38. **Capister** (*Capistrum*). The anterior portion of the head all round the base of the bill.
39. **Lore** (*Lorum*). Narrow space between the bill and the eye, on each side.
40. **Ophthalmic region** (*Regio ophthalmica*). Space round the eye.
41. **Orbits** (*Orbita*). The innermost portion of the ophthalmic region immediately adjacent to the eye.
42. **Cheeks** (*Genæ*). See Malar region.
43. **Eyebrow** (*Supercilia*). A longitudinal stripe immediately above the eye.
44. **Temples** (*Tempora*). Whole side of the head behind the eye or between the eye, top of head, and the ear.
45. **Parotic region** (*Regio parotica*). Space around the ears.
46. **Chin** (*Mentum*). Space embraced between the branches of lower jaw.

**C. The Neck** (*Collum*).

47. **Neck** (*Collum*). The part connecting the head and trunk, enclosing the neck vertebræ.
48. **Hind-neck** (*Cervix*). The upper or posterior portion of the neck, from occiput to back.
49. **Nape** (*Nucha*). The portion of hind neck nearest the head.



**Neck** (*Continued*).

50. **Auchenium** (*Auchenium*). The portion of hind neck nearest the back, the "scruff" of the neck.
51. **Fore-neck** (*Guttur*). The inferior or anterior portion of neck, from the chin to the breast.
52. **Throat** (*Gula*). The upper part of fore neck, or that nearest the chin.
53. **Jugulum** (*Jugulum*). The lower part of fore neck, between the throat and the breast. (Divided into upper, middle, and lower.)
54. **Side neck** (*Parauchenium*). The sides of the neck, between the front and the hind neck.
55. **Collar** (*Traques*). A ring of any kind encircling the neck.

**D. The Trunk** (*Truncus*).

56. **Trunk** (*Truncus*). That portion of the body enclosing the viscera and intestines, and carrying the neck and head at one end, the tail at the other, as also the four limbs.
57. **Back** (*Dorsum*). The portion of the upper surface of the trunk, from the neck to the rump, and corresponding to the dorsal and sacral vertebræ.
58. **Upper back** (*Interscapulium*). The upper portion of the back, or along the dorsal vertebræ; between the shoulder-blades, and opposite the breast, sometimes called *dorsum anticum*.
59. **Lower back** (*Tergum*). The lower portion of the back along the sacral region, from the upper back to the rump, and opposite the belly, sometimes called *dorsum posterum*.
60. **Rump** (*Uropygium*). The portion of the upper side of the trunk corresponding to the caudal vertebræ.
61. **Mantle** (*Stragulum*; *Pallium*). The back and the outside of the folded wings taken together.
- 61½. **Ventral region** (*Regio ventralis*). Under side of body, including breast and abdomen.
62. **Breast** (*Pectus*). The most anterior portion of the lower surface of trunk, representing the region of the sternum or breast bone (between the jugulum and the abdomen).
63. **Abdomen** (*Abdomen*). The under side of body, between the breast and the anal region.
64. **Epigaster** (*Epigastrium*). The anterior portion of abdomen, next to the breast.
65. **Belly** (*Venter*). The hinder portion of the abdomen, next to the anal region or crissum.
66. **Anal region** (*Crissum*). The region around the anus, below the tail, and opposite to the rump. Frequently includes under tail coverts.
67. **Flanks** (*Hypochondria*). The sides of the soft parts of the body.
68. **Humeral region** (*Regio humeralis*). The anterior portion of the sides; that in which the wing is implanted.

**E. The Tail** (*Cauda*).

69. **Tail** (*Cauda*). The feathers forming the posterior extremity of the body, implanted on the os coccygis, or rump bone.
70. **Tail feathers** (*Rectrices*). The long individual feathers belonging to the tail.

NOTE. — *Ternina* 70½ are coverts in general, whether of wing or tail. *Calyptræ* are tail coverts. *Tectrices* (83), wing coverts.

**Tail** (*Continued*).

71. **Tail coverts** (*Calypteria*). The feathers overlying and covering the base of the tail feathers; the
72. **Upper** (*superiores*) being those above, and
73. **Lower** (*inferiores*) those below; sometimes concealing or projecting beyond the tail.

**F. The Wings** (*Ala*).

74. **Wings** (*Ala*). The anterior pair of limbs of the bird, used in flight.
75. **Primary quills, or quills of the first series; Hand-quills** (*Remiges primariæ*). The (usually) ten stiff feathers inserted on the hand or first joint (metacarpus and digit), or from the bend of the wing to the tip.
76. **Secondary quills or quills of the second series; Arm-quills** (*Remiges secundariæ*; *Pennæ cubiti*). The inner quills, or those inserted along the posterior edge of the forearm or cubitus. The innermost of these quills, sometimes longer or different from the rest, are frequently called tertials. (*Pennæ tertiarie*.)
77. **Bend of the wing** (*Flexura, Plica*). The angle of junction of the hand-joint and that of the forearm.
78. **Armpit** (*Axilla*). The under side of the insertion of the wing into the body.
79. **False or Bastard wing** (*Alula*). A series of several stiffened feathers on the edge of the wing, overlying and exterior to the primary quills, and inserted on the thumb joint of the hand.
80. **Scapulars** (*Pennæ scapulares*). Stiffened feathers inserted on the shoulder-blade or the insertion of arm (*humerus*), and filling up the interval between the secondary quills and the body.
81. **Axillars** (*Pennæ axillares*). Similar feathers connecting the under surface of the wing and the body, and concealed in the closed wing.
82. **Speculum, or Mirror** (*Speculum alæ*). A brilliantly colored portion of the wing especially in the ducks, over the extremities of the secondary quills, and framed in on one side (in the closed wing) by the primary quills, or the other by the scapulars.
83. **Wing coverts** (*Tectrices*). The smaller feathers of the wing. The
84. **Upper** (*superiores*), side above or outer. The
85. **Lower** (*inferiores*), below, or inside, and overlying the bases of the quills. These and the quills form the surfaces of the wings.
86. **Primary coverts** (*Tectrices primariæ*). The feathers, which either
87. **Upper or**
88. **Under** overlie the bases of the primary quills. These are on the upper or under surface of the wing; not often distinguished in descriptions.
89. **Secondary coverts** (*Tectrices secundariæ*). The feathers which, as
90. **Upper and**
91. **Under**, cover the bases of the secondary quills, on the upper or under surface of the wings, being generally those referred to as "coverts."
92. **Greater coverts** (*Tectrices majores*). The longest coverts projecting beyond the rest, and resting directly upon the bases of the secondary quills.
93. **Lesser coverts** (*Tectrices minores*). The succession of many series of small feathers beginning at and covering the anterior edge of the wing, very small at first and increasing in size behind.
94. **Middle coverts** (*Tectrices mediæ*). One or more rows of coverts, intermediate in size as well as position, between the lesser and greater coverts.

**Wings** (*Continued*).

95. **Edge of the wing** (*Campyterion*; *Margo carpi*). The small feathers covering the anterior edge of the wing, both along the forearm and the hand or first joint, including the bend of the wing.

**G. The Legs** (*Pedes*).

96. **Legs** (*Pedes*). The posterior pair of limbs inserted in the pelvis, and used in walking or running.
97. **Thigh** (*Femur*). The basal joint of the leg, its head articulating with the pelvis. This is generally imbedded in the flesh, and covered by the skin so as not to be appreciable, especially in the prepared specimen.
98. **Shin** (*Tibia*). The second or middle joint of the leg, articulated above to the thigh, below to the tarsus. The upper part, sometimes the whole, is enveloped in flesh, and covered by skin and feathers; sometimes the lower extremity is covered by horny plates, the
99. (*Cnemidium*).
100. **Foot joint** (*Podarthrum*). The junction of the tarsus below with the foot.
101. **Podotheca** (*Podotheca*). The horny or skinny covering of lower tibia, tarsus, and feet.
102. **Knee** (*Genu*). The junction of the thigh with the leg, usually concealed by the skin.
103. **Heel joint** (*Suffrago*). The junction of the leg with the tarsus.
- 103½. **Tarsus** (*Tarsus*). The third joint of the leg and next to the tibia; covered generally with horn, sometimes with naked skin or feathers, never with flesh; the toes are articulated to its lower extremity. This joint corresponds to the ankle joint of the human body.
104. **Instep, or Front of tarsus** (*Acrotarsium*). The anterior face of the tarsus, usually covered by small plates, which in the higher groups are united into one; sometimes covered by skin.
105. **Side of tarsus** (*Paratarsium*).
106. **Back of tarsus** (*Planta tarsi*). Homologically the **Sole** (*Planta*).
107. **Heel** (*Calcaneus*; *Talus*). The upper posterior extremity of the tarsus.
108. **Spur** (*Calcar*). Any bony sharp process or spine implanted on the tarsus, as in the rooster.
109. **Scutellæ** (*Scutella*). The succession of small, usually rectangular plates, applied against the anterior face of the tarsus, and the upper surface of toes. These sometimes encircle the tarsus completely, meeting on the inner side; sometimes reach half round with similar half-rings on the back side of the tarsus; are sometimes divided into polygonal plates; are sometimes fused into a continuous plate, either anteriorly or laterally. Modifications of structure in this respect indicate differences in rank and systematic position of the highest value.
110. **Scutellate tarsus**. When the tarsus is covered with transverse or polygonal scales, as described above.
111. **Booted tarsus**. Where the anterior face is covered with a continuous horny plate not divided into scutellæ.
112. **Foot** (*Pes*). The toes and tarsus taken together.
113. **Top of foot** (*Acropodium*). The entire upper surface of the foot.
114. **The track** (*Pelma*). The entire lower surface of the foot.
115. **Heel pad** (*Pterna*; *Tuber*). The posterior portion of the *pelma*, immediately under the joint of the foot, and frequently prominent.

**Legs** (*Continued*).

116. **Toes** (*Digiti*). The, usually four, sometimes three, very rarely two, articulated portions of the leg hinged on the lower extremity of the tarsus. When all four are present, one is usually behind, sometimes two before, and two behind.
117. **Top of toes** (*Acrodactylum*). The upper surface of the toes individually.
118. **Soles of toes** (*Hypodactylum*). The lower or plantar surface of the toes individually.
119. **Side of toes** (*Paradactylum*). The sides, in any way distinguished from the soles.
120. **Phalanges**. The several bones composing a toe.
121. **Claw** (*Unques*). The horny tips sheathing the last joint of the toes.
122. **Claw joint** (*Rhizonychium*). The terminal bone of the toe, carrying or armed with the claws.
123. **Pads** (*Tylari*). The swellings or bulbs on the under side of the phalanges.  
Those **Toes** are
124. **Anterior** which are directed forwards;
125. **Posterior**, directed backwards;
126. **Exterior**, on the outer side of the foot;
127. **Interior**, on the inner side of the foot; the
128. **Middle toe** is the central of three toes directed forwards.
129. **Hind toe** (*Hallux*). The single toe directed backwards. This is homologically the first or great toe directed backward. It is
130. **Insistent** (*insistens*), when the tip at least touches the ground, but the base raised above the level of the rest;
131. **Incumbent** (*incumbens*), when its whole under surface touches the ground; and
132. **Elevated** (*elevatus*; *amotus*), when raised so high that the tip does not touch the ground at all.
133. **Unarmed toe** (*Digitus muticus*). Toe without a claw. The tarsus is unarmed when without a spur.
134. **Fringed toe** (*Digitus lomatinus*). A lateral membranous margin to the toes. This
135. **Fringe** (*Loma*) may be
136. **Continuous** (*continuum*), or
137. **Lobed** or **Scolloped** (*lobatum*).
138. **Membrane** (*Palama*). A skin either soft or covered with scales or feathers connecting two adjacent toes together at the base, and sometimes extending to or beyond their tips. The foot so constructed is called
139. **Palmate** (*palmatus*) when the anterior toes only are so connected and
141. **Oared** (*Steganopus*), where all the toes, including the hinder, are so connected in the cormorants, etc. The feet may be half, or semipalmate; entirely or totipalmate.

**NOTE.** In the usual arrangement of the toes, of three before and one behind, the hinder corresponds to the great toe of man, or the first; the inner anterior is the second; the middle is the third; and the outer is the fourth. When the toes are in pairs or two before and two behind, it is the outer or fourth toe that is turned backwards, as is the woodpeckers. In the Trogons, however, the inner toe is revered. With scarcely an exception in birds, the hinder or first toe has two joints; the inner (2d) has three; the middle (3d) has four; and the outer (4th) has five, or a formula of 2.3.4.5. In the typical *Caprimulgidae* the outer toe has only four phalanges the formula being 2.3.4.4. Finally, in some *Cypselidae* (*Cypselus* and *Panytila*), we have the middle and outer toes with three joints only each, the formula being 2.3.3.3. When there are but three toes, the hinder or first is wanting; the ostrich (*Struthio*) has but two toes, lacking the first and second.



## H. The Outer Covering (*Indumentum*).

142. **Outer covering** (*Indumentum*; *Ptilosis*). The exterior of the bird in detail.
143. **Feathers** (*Pinna*). Composed of the *stem* and the *webs*.
144. **Stem** (*Scapus*). The entire central axis of the feather.
145. **Quill** (*Calamus*). The hollow horny basal portion of the feather.
146. **Shaft** (*Ilachis*). The solid terminal portion of the stem in which the fibres are implanted.
147. **Webs** (*Pogonia*). The series of fibres implanted on each side the shaft, generally stiff, and having little
148. **Hooks** or **barbules** along the edges, by which adjacent ones interlock; sometimes soft, with the barbules not interlocking, the barbules sometimes wanting. The
149. **Inner web** (*Pogonium internum*) is situated on the inner side of the shaft; the
150. **Outer** (*externum*), on the outer side.
151. **Vane** (*Vexillum*). The shaft and webs taken together, or the portion of the feather left when the barrel or quill is cut away.

## GLOSSARY.



# GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS USED IN DESCRIPTIVE ORNITHOLOGY.

*Including a number of pronounced Anatomical and Physiological Terms.*

(PREPARED BY DR. COUES.)

NOTE.—The number in parenthesis refers to the foregoing "Explanation of Terms," etc. The sign (') marks accent; *n*, noun; *a*, adjective; *pl.*, plural; *gen.*, genitive.

## A.

ABDO'MEN or AB'DOMEN, *n.* Belly; part of gastræum between sternum and anus. (63.)  
 ABDOM'INAL, *a.* Pertaining to the belly.  
 ABDUC'TION, *n.* Act of carrying a limb away from the axis of the body. Opposed to *adduction*. Muscles so acting are *abductors*.  
 ABER'RANT, *a.* Deviating from ordinary character.  
 ABNOR'MAL, *a.* Of highly unusual, extraordinary character; deformed; monstrous.  
 ABOR'TIVE, *a.* Suppressed; remaining or becoming imperfect. The nostrils of the cormorant are *abortive*.  
 ACAR'IDES, *n. pl.* Certain external parasites.  
 ACCEP'TIRINE, *a.* Hawk-like; belonging to *Accipitres*.  
 ACCLIMATIZA'TION, *n.* Naturalization, with reference to the effect of a new country upon the economy.  
 ACETAB'ULUM, *n.* Pelvic cavity for reception of head of femur.  
 ACHIL'IS (*tendo*), *n.* Tendon of principal extensor muscle of foot.  
 ACIC'ULAR, *a.* Needle-shaped; sharp and very slender.  
 ACRODAC'TYLUM, *n.* Top of toes collectively. (117.) (Little used.)  
 ACRO'MION, *n.* Process of the scapula.  
 ACROPO'DIUM, *n.* Entire upper surface of foot. (113.) (Little used.)  
 ACROTAR'SIUM, *n.* Front of tarsus, corresponding to the human instep. (104.) (Little used.)  
 ACU'MINATE, *a.* Tapering gradually to a point.  
 ACUTE', *a.* Sharp-pointed.  
 AD- (*in composition*). To; towards.  
 ADDUC'TION, *n.* Act of drawing a limb toward axis of body. Muscles so acting are *adductors*. Compare ABDUCTION.  
 AD'ENOID, *a.* Glandular; glandiform.  
 AD'IPOSE (*tissue*), *a.* for *n.* Cellular tissue holding fat in special vesicles.  
 ADOLESCENCE, *n.* Youth.  
 ADRE'NAL (*body*), *a.* for *n.* A small organ capping the kidney.

ADULT', *a.* or *n.* Grown to full size; mature.  
 ÆGITHOGNATH'OUS, *a.* Having the palate bones disposed as in a sparrow or other passerine bird.  
 AF'FERENT, *a.* Bringing to or towards. Opposed to *efferent*.  
 AFFINED', *a.* Joined or related by affinity.  
 AFFIN'ITY, *n.* Quality of direct relation; conformity; agreement. Morphological *affinity* implies relationship by genetic descent; teleological *affinity* cannot be properly predicated.  
 AF'TER-SHAFT, *n.* Scape or stem of the supplementary plume springing from many feathers, or, oftener, such plume itself.  
 AL'A, *n.*; *pl. alæ*. Wing; the anterior limb of birds. (73.)  
 AL'AR, *a.* Pertaining to the wings.  
 ALAT'US, *a.* Winged.  
 AL'BINISM, *n.* State of whiteness, complete or partial, resulting from deficiency or entire lack of pigment in the skin and its appendages.  
 ALBI'NO, *n.* An animal affected with albinism.  
 ALBINOT'IC, *a.* Affected with albinism.  
 ALBU'MEN, *n.* Transparent glairy fluid of which white of egg mainly consists.  
 ALBU'MINOUS, *a.* Containing or consisting of albumen.  
 ALIMEN'TARY, *a.* Pertaining to the digestive organs or nutritive function.  
 ALISPHE'NOID, *n.* "Wing," or expanded part of sphenoid bone.  
 ALLANTO'IS, *n.* A certain organ of the embryo.  
 AL'LEX, *n.* Same as HALLUX (which see).  
 AL'TRICES, *n. pl.* Birds reared in the nest and fed by the parents.  
 ALTRIC'IAL, *a.* Having the nature of *Altrices*.  
 AL'ULA, *n.* Literally, little wing. The bastard wing, composed of the feathers that are set on the so-called thumb.  
 AL'ULAR, *a.* Pertaining to the bastard wing.  
 ALVE'OLUS, *n.* Socket, particularly of a tooth.  
 AL'VINE, *a.* Pertaining to the lower belly (said chiefly of intestinal discharges).  
 AM'BU'LATORY, *a.* Same as GRADIENT (which see).



- AM'NION, *n.* A certain sign of the embryo.
- AMO'TUS, *a.* Denoting the hind toe so elevated and short that the tip does not touch the ground (122).
- AMPHIBARTH'ETAL, *a.* Denoting a sliding joint, or the absence of fixed movement.
- AMPHIBARTH'ETIC, *a.* Said of a vertebra when both ends of its centrum are capped. The corresponding vertebrae are capped in front, and the centrum, capped behind.
- AMPU'LA, *n.* A certain cavity of the inner ear.
- AN'AL, *a.* Pertaining to the anus; situated about the anus.
- ANALOG'ICAL, *a.* Having analogy; related by analogy.
- ANAL'OGY, *n.* Quality of likeness in certain (generally superficial or inconsiderable) respects, between things essentially unlike. There may be analogy entirely without homology, as between the wing of a bird and of a butterfly.
- ANASTOMO'SIS, *n.* Inosculation or intercommunication of two or more vessels.
- AN'ATINE, *a.* Duck-like.
- ANCHYLO'SIS or ANKYLO'SIS, *n.* Restriction or loss of motion in a naturally movable joint; also, any coössification.
- AN'CONAL, *a.* Pertaining to the elbow.
- ANGLE OF CHIN = ANGULUS MENT. (23.)
- ANGLE OF MOUTH = ANGULUS ORIS. (27.)
- ANGULUS ORIS, *n.* Corner of the mouth; equivalent to commissural point.
- AN'NUINE, *a.* A bird one year old, or which has once moulted.
- AN'NULAR, *a.* Ringed.
- AN'NUUS, *a.* Ring.
- ANOM'ALOUS, *a.* Extremely irregular; very strange or unusual; contrary to natural order (nearly synonymous with *abnormal*).
- AN'SERINE, *a.* Pertaining to the *Anseres*; goose-like.
- AN'TE- (*in composition*). Before; as, *antecocular*, *anteorbital*, etc.
- ANTERIOR, *a.* Forward; in front of.
- ANTERIOR PORTION. (7.) See *STERNITUM*.
- ANTERIOR TOES. (124.)
- AN'TI- (*in composition*). Against.
- AN'TLÆ, *n. pl.* Frontal points; projections of feathers on either side of base of culmen. (36.)
- ANTIBRACHI'UM, *n.* Cubit or forearm.
- A'NUS, *n.* Outlet of refuse of digestion. In birds, the same orifice discharges the products of the genito-urinary organs.
- AOR'TA, *a.* The first great artery, immediately issuing from the left ventricle of the heart.
- AOR'TIC, *a.* Pertaining to the aorta.
- APERTURE, *n.* An opening; as, *aperturæ auris*, ear-opening.
- A'PEX, *n.*; *pl. apices*. Tip or point of anything.
- APOHY'AL, *a.* A portion of the "horn" of the hyoid bone.
- APONEURO'SIS, *n.* Broad, strong, fibrous membrane or band; fascia.
- APOPH'YSIS, *n.* Any natural bony prominence of notable size.
- APPOSED', *a.* Mutually fitted, adapted; set over against; meeting closely and exactly. The tonia of the bill are usually *apposed*.
- APTE'RIMUM, *n.*; *pl. apteria*. Tract of skin where no feathers grow. Compare *PTERYLA*.
- AQUAT'IC, *a.* Pertaining to the water; said of birds frequenting water, and thence drawing subsistence.
- A'QUEOUS, *a.* Watery. Said of the fluid in the anterior chamber of the eye. See *VITREOUS*.
- AR'CHINE, *a.* Arch-like; belonging to the *Archæa*.
- ARACH'NOID, *n.* One of the three enveloping membranes of the brain, between the *dura mater* and the *pia mater*.
- ARBOR'ICOLE, *a.* Tree-inhabiting.
- ARCH'ETYPE, *n.* Original plan or idea of structure, modified or lost by subsequent specialization.
- ARCHETYP'ICAL, *a.* Having the primitive pattern or original plan of structure.
- ARC'ATE, *a.* Bow-shaped; bent regularly and gradually.
- AR'OLA, *n.*; *pl. areolæ*. Small naked space on the feet between scales.
- ARE'OLAR TISSUE. The light cellular connective tissue of the body.
- ARMIL'LA, *n.* Ring of color, like a bracelet, around lower end of crus.
- ARM'PIT, *n.* (78.) See *AXILLA*.
- ARTE'RIAL, *a.* Pertaining to arteries; as, arterial system, arterial blood.
- AR'TERY, *n.* Vessel conveying blood from the heart.
- ARTICULA'TION, *n.* A joining together; joint.
- ARTIC'ULUS, *n.* Joint of a finger or toe (commonly used to signify the hinge itself, but better to designate any one of the segments joined by articulation).
- ARTIFI'CIAL, *a.* Elaborate; skilfully or artfully contrived. Some birds build highly *artificial* nests. Also, arbitrary; as, an *artificial* classification, more or less at variance with that which a *natural* system may be.
- AR'TUS, *n.*; *pl. artus*. Any member, limb.
- ARYT'ENOID, *a.* Denoting certain ossicles of the larynx.
- ASCAR'IDES, *n. pl.* Certain intestinal parasites.
- ASH or ASH'Y, *a.* Pale gray.
- ASTER'NAL (ribs), *a.* Denoting "floating" ribs; those not joining the sternum.
- ASTRAG'ALUS, *n.* One of two proximal tarsal bones of birds, early confluent with the tibia.
- ASYMMET'RIC, *a.* Uneven; disproportionate as to opposite, as right and left, parts.
- ASYM'METRY, *n.* Disproportion of duplicate parts or organs, or of those which are repeated on opposite sides of a plane or axis.
- AT'AVISM, *n.* Reversion, or tendency to revert, to characters of ancestral stock.
- AT'LAS, *n.* First cervical vertebra, articulating with the occipital bone.
- ATRES'IA, *n.* Closure.
- AT'ROPHY, *n.* See *HYPERTROPHY*.
- ATTEN'UATE, *a.* Growing gradually slenderer toward an extremity; or, narrowly produced for a long distance; in neither case necessarily sharp-pointed, which would be rather *acuminate*.
- ATTYP'ICAL, *a.* Of particular character acquired in specialization from a common type.
- ARCH'NIUM, *n.* Lower back part of neck; the scruff. (50.) (Little used.)
- AU'RAL or AURICULAR, *a.* Pertaining to the ear.

**AT'RICLE, n.** The external ear; wanting or imperfect in birds. Also, cavity right and left of the heart receiving blood from the system and lungs; also called *atrium*.  
**AURIC'ULARS, a. pl.** Peculiar feathers overlying the ear-opening.  
**ATROCH'RONOUS, a.** Indigenous.  
**AUTOG'ENOUS, a.** Literally, self-producing. In homology, developing from distinct and independent centres. Opposed to *exogenous*.  
**AT'TOPSY, n.** Personal observation or examination.  
**ATOP'TICAL, a.** Personally inspected.  
**AUTUM'NAL PLUM'AGE.** That ensuing from the first moult, if any, or prior to the spring moult, from which it is different in many birds.  
**A'VIARY, n.** Place where birds are kept captive.  
**AVIC'ULA, n.** Little bird; hence, nestling, fledgling, or any ungrown bird.  
**AVICUL'TURE, n.** Care of birds.  
**A'VIS, n.; pl. aves.** Bird.  
**AXIL'LA, n.** Armpit; hollow beneath the shoulder. (78.)  
**AX'ILLAR or AX'ILLARY, a.** Pertaining to the armpit.  
**AX'ILLARIES, n. pl.** Lengthened or otherwise distinguished feathers growing from the axillary region. (81.)  
**AX'IS, n.** Second cervical vertebra. Also, an imaginary line passing along the middle of any one of the three mutually perpendicular planes of the body, the longitudinal, vertical, and transverse. Also, a pivot.  
**A'ZYGOS, a.** Single, in the sense of *not paired*.

## B.

**BACK, n.** Upper surface of body proper, corresponding to dorsal and sacral vertebrae. Includes *INTERSCAPILIUM* and *TERGUM* (which see). (57.)  
**BACK OF NECK.** Cervical region. Includes *NUCHA* and *CERVIX* (which see). Equivalent to hind-neck. (48.)  
**BACK OF TAR'SUS.** Hind edge and hinder half, on each side, of tarsus. See *PLANTA*. Homologically the sole. (106.)  
**BAND or BAR.** Any crosswise color-mark, transverse to long axis of the body.  
**BAND'ED or BARRED, a.** Marked crosswise.  
**BARB, n.** Any one of the laminae composing the vane of a feather.  
**BAR'BA, n.** Beard. Lengthened or otherwise distinguished feathers of chin or throat.  
**BARBAT'US, a.** Bearded.  
**BAR'BICEL, n.** Barb of a barbule, not hooked. Compare *HAMULUS*.  
**BAR'BULE, n.** Barb of a barb. (145.)  
**BA'SAL, a.** Pertaining to the base; situate at the base.  
**BASE, { n.** Bottom; root; origin.  
**BASIS, {**  
**BASIH'YOID, n.** Central tongue-bone.  
**BASIOCCIP'ITAL, n.** Basal element of the occipital bone; centrum of hindermost cranial vertebra.  
**BASIPTER'YGOID, n.** A boss or protuberance

of the base of the sphenoid bone, often movably abutting against the pterygoid bone.  
**BASISPHE'NOID, n.** Basal element of sphenoid bone; centrum of second cranial vertebra.  
**BEAK, n.** Bill. See *ROSTRUM*. (9.)  
**BEL'LY, n.** See *ABDOMEN*. (65.)  
**BELT, n.** Bar or band of color more or less completely encircling the body.  
**BEND OF WING.** Angle or prominence formed at carpus in the folded wing.  
**BEV'ELLED, a.** Having two plane surfaces meeting obliquely.  
**BEV'Y, n.** Flock of quail.  
**BI- (in composition).** Twice; double.  
**BIBLIOG'RAPHY, n.** History or other account of the literature of the subject.  
**BI'CEPS, n.** Principal flexor muscle of forearm.  
**BI'NARY, a.** Double, in sense of compounded of two.  
**BINO'MIAL, a.** Of two terms. Also, noting a system of nomenclature in which each object has two names, generic and specific. This is the generally adopted system at present.  
**BIOL'OGY, n.** The study of living beings, as to the laws and results of organization. It is more comprehensive than physiology.  
**BIOTAX'Y, n.** Equivalent to taxonomy.  
**BIVEN'TER, n.** Name of a double-bellied muscle of the neck.  
**BLAS'TODERM, n.** Superficies of the early embryo.  
**BOAT-SHAPED (tail), a.** Having plane of each side of tail meeting the other obliquely, making a re-entrance above and keel below.  
**BOOT, n.** The tarsal envelope when entire.  
**BOOT'ED (tarsus), a.** Having the tarsal envelope entire, i. e. undivided in most or all of its extent, by fusion of the usual scales or plates. (111.)  
**BO'REAL, a.** Northern.  
**BOSS, n.** Stud; knob; protuberance; short stout process.  
**BRACH'IAL, a.** Pertaining to the wing.  
**BRACHYPT'EROUS, a.** Short-winged.  
**BRACHYU'ROUS, a.** Short-tailed.  
**BREAST, n.** (62.) See *PECTUS*.  
**BRIS'TLE, n.** Small stiff hair-like feather, especially about the mouth or eyes. Compare *VIBRISSA*.  
**BRON'CHIAL, a.** Pertaining to the bronchi.  
**BRON'CHUS, n.; pl. bronchi.** Fork or branch of the windpipe below, leading to either lung.  
**BUC'CAL, a.** Pertaining to the cheeks internally.  
**BUFF, BUFFY; a.** Pale brownish-yellow; color of yellow buckskin.

## C.

**CADU'COUS, a.** Falling off early.  
**CAE'CAL, a.** Pertaining to the caeca.  
**CAE'CUM, n.; pl. caeca.** (Pronounced *see'cum*.) Intestinal cul-de-sac at junction of smaller and larger intestines, usually present paired in birds; sometimes a foot long. (Also written *caecum, caeca*.)  
**CAL'AMUS, n.** Quill; the dry, hard, horny portion of the stem of a feather below the

- web, hollow or partly pithy, and translucent.  
*Calamus* = *thachis* = *scapus*. (145.)
- CALCANEAL, *a*. Pertaining to the back upper portion of the tarso-metatarsus (tarsus of ordinary language).
- CALCANEUM, *a*. Heel; back upper part of tarso-metatarsus. Same as *astalus*. (167.) One of the tibial condyles is by some regarded as the homologue of the calcaneum.
- CALCARI, *n*. Spur; sharp horn-covered bone-coted process on the shank of many birds; also, similar horny process on the metacarpal bone.
- CALCARATUS, *a*. Spurred.
- CALCAREOUS, *a*. Chalky. A cornuotant's egg is covered with *calcareous* substance.
- CALCEITIC, *a*. Calceitizing; an epithet of that portion of the oviduct where the egg-shell is formed.
- CALIGULA, *n*. Same as Boot (which see).
- CALLES, *n*. New bony matter joining a fracture.
- CALYPTARIA, *n. pl.* Tail-coverts; the smaller feathers underlying or overlying the base of the tail. (Little used.) See CRISNUM and TECTRICES CAUDE. (71.)
- CALYX, *n*. Pedicellated ovarian capsule of two membranes with lax tissue and vessels, rupturing at a point called the *stigma* to discharge the ovum, then collapsing and becoming absorbed.
- CAMPTERIUM, *n*. Front and outer border of wing as far as the bone extends. (Little used.) (95.)
- CANALICULUM, *n*. Little groove.
- CANCELLATED, *a*. Denoting bony network.
- CANTHUS, *n*; *pl. canthi*. Corner of eye where the lids meet; commissural point of eyelids. *Canthi* are anterior and posterior.
- CAP, *n*. PILEUS (which see). (30.)
- CAPILLARY, *a*. or *n*. Of hair-like slenderness. The smallest bloodvessels are the capillaries.
- CAPISTRATE, *a*. Hooded or cowl'd.
- CAPISTRUM, *n*. Hood or cowl; front of head all around bill. (38.)
- CAPITATE, *a*. Said of a feather having enlarged extremity.
- CAPITULUM, *n*. Head of a rib.
- CAPSULAR, *a*. Denoting certain ligaments that completely invest a joint.
- CAPUT, *n*; *gen. capitis*, *pl. capita*. Head. (9, 29.)
- CARDIAC, *a*. Pertaining to the heart.
- CARINA, *n*. Keel; under ridge, as if a keel.
- CARINATE, *a*. Keeled; ridged beneath as if keeled; having a keel, as the sternum of most birds.
- CARINATE (birds), *n*. Those possessing a keeled sternum; the group *Carinatae* as contrasted with *Ratitae*.
- CARNIPOS, *a*. Flechy.
- CARNIVOROUS, *a*. Flesh-eating.
- CAROTID (artery), *a*. for *n*. The principal blood-vessel of the neck, single in most birds, sometimes paired as in mammalia.
- CARPAL, *a*. Pertaining to the wrist.
- CARPAL ANGLE, *n*. Prominence formed at the wrist-joint when the wing is closed. It is practically an important point regionally, since the universally used measurement, "length of wing," is from this point to the end of the longest quill.
- CARPUS, *n*. The wrist; especially its bones.
- CARTILAGE, *n*. A whitish, hard, and solid, but elastic, flexible, and soluble, substance of the body, permanent, or becoming osseous by deposition of bone-earth. It occurs in the windpipe, in many joints, and elsewhere.
- CARTILAGINOUS, *a*. Like, containing, or consisting of, cartilage.
- CARUNCLE, *n*. Small fleshy excrescence, particularly about the head, usually naked, and wrinkled, warty, or brightly colored.
- CARTILAGINATE, *a*. Having cartilages.
- CAUDA, *n*. The tail. (69.) In descriptive ornithology, generally only the tail-feathers are meant. *Cauda auticularis* = BOAT-SHAPED TAIL (which see).
- CAUDAD, *a*. Backwards; toward the tail.
- CAUDAL, *a*. Pertaining to the tail; as, *caudal* vertebrae, or *caudal* extremity; but we hardly say *caudal* feathers.
- CELL, *n*. Any closed sac containing fluid or other substance.
- CELLULAR, *a*. Having cells; composed of cells.
- CEN'TRE OF GRAVITY, *n*. Point of a body about which the whole is balanced, and which, if supported, supports the whole. In a flying bird the centre of gravity is below the middle of the body, so that the bird is naturally ballasted.
- CENTRUM, *n*; *pl. centra*. Body of a vertebra.
- CEPHALAD, *a*. Forwards; towards the head.
- CEPHALIC, *a*. Pertaining to the head.
- CEPHALO-CER'CAL (axis), *a*. Denoting the long axis of the body.
- CE'RA, } *n*. Flechy, cutaneous or membra-  
 CERE, } nous, often feathered, covering of  
 CERO'MA, } base of bill of many birds, as parrots, hawks, and owls; differing thus in texture from the rest of the *rhaphotheca*, and usually also showing an evident line of demarcation. When present, the nostrils are always pierced in its substance, — at least at its edge.
- CERATOH'YAL, *n*. A portion of the "horn" of the hyoid bone.
- CER'CAL, *a*. Pertaining to the tail. (Little used.)
- CEREBEL'LAR, *a*. Pertaining to the cerebellum.
- CEREBEL'UM, *n*. Little brain; the hinder, lower, smaller mass of the brain, in birds striate transversely.
- CEREBRAL, *a*. Pertaining to the brain.
- CEREBRO-SPINAL (axis or column), *n*. The whole neural axis, or column of nerve-substance enclosed in the spinal canal and cranium.
- CEREBRUM, *n*. Brain proper, or larger brain, as distinguished from the *cerebellum*.
- CERT'MEN, *n*. Ear-wax.
- CER'VICAL, *a*. Pertaining to the hind-neck; as, a *cervical* collar. Also, pertaining to the whole neck; as, *cervical* vertebrae.
- CER'VIX, *n*. Hind-neck; from occiput to interscapulum, including nape and scruff. (48.)
- CHALAZ'Æ, *n. pl.* Twisted filaments of condensed albumen forming a thread at each pole of the yolk, steadying it by attachment to the lining membrane of the egg, and balancing it in such manner that the "tread" stays up-permost.
- CHALAZIFEROUS, *a*. Denoting the layers of condensed albumen which form the chalazæ.



- CHAR'ACTER, n.** Any material attribute susceptible of definition for use in description and classification. Also, a sign of such attributes; as, of passing *character*.
- CHAS'MA, n.** Decussation of the optic nerve.
- CHIEK, n.** Outside of base of lower jaw; also, the corresponding region of upper jaw. Compare *GENE* and *MALAR REGION*. (26.) (The term is differently employed by various writers, and is at best not definite.)
- CHIN, n.** Space between forks of lower jaw; upper throat. See *MENTUM*. (46.)
- CHOROID, n.** Vascular black membrane of the eye, between retina and sclerotic. *Choroid plexus*, a certain fold of the *pia mater*.
- CHYLE, n.** A certain intestinal fluid resulting from digestion.
- CHYME, n.** A certain product of incompleting digestion.
- CICATRIC'ULA, n.** Dark spot on the surface of a fecundated yolk. See *YOLK*.
- CIL'IATED, a.** Bristly; furnished with bristles, or small bristle-like feathers; fringed.
- CIL'IUM, n.; pl. cilia.** Bristly or hair-like feather, about the mouth and eyes especially. See *VIBRISSE* and *SETA*.
- CINE'REOUS, a.** Of an ashy color.
- CIRCUM- (in composition).** Around; about: as, *circumanal*, *circumorbital*, *circumaural*, — around the anus, orbit, ear, etc.
- CIRCUMDUCT'ION, n.** Movement of a limb by which, if completed, a cone is described.
- CIRRH'OUS, a.** Tufted.
- CLASS, n.** Fundamental division of animals: the *class* of Birds; the *class Aves*.
- CLASSIFICA'TION, n.** Systematic arrangement.
- CLAV'ICLE, n.** Collar-bone. In birds, the two clavicles usually unite to form the furculum, merry-thought or wish-bone.
- CLAVIC'ULAR, a.** Pertaining to the clavicles.
- CLAW, n.** (121.)
- CLAW-JOINT, n.** (122.) See *RHIZONYCHIUM*.
- CLIT'ORIS, n.** Erectile venerial organ of the female, homologue of the male penis, present in some birds.
- CLOACA, n.** Enlarged lower end of straight gut, receptacle of products of genito-urinary system and refuse of digestion.
- CLUTCH, n.** Nest-complement of eggs.
- CNE'MIAL, a.** Pertaining to the crus or shin. Equivalent to *crural*.
- CNEMID'IUM, n.** End of crus, naked in most wading birds.
- COC'CYGE'AL, a.** Pertaining to the tail, especially to its bones; synonymous with *caudal*.
- COC'CYX, n.** The tail, as to its bones collectively. *Os coccygis*. Any one of the tail-bones, or coccygeal vertebrae.
- COCH'LEA, n.** A certain portion of the inner ear.
- CÆCUM, n.; pl. cæca.** See *CÆCUM*.
- CÆLIAC, a.** Pertaining to certain of the abdominal viscera. Little used, excepting as the name of a certain artery, the *cœliac axis*.
- CORTUS, n.** Sexual intercourse.
- COLOR'AR, n.** Ring of color around neck. See *TORQUE*. (55.)
- COLORUM, n.** Neck; part of body between and connecting head and trunk. (47.)
- COLORA'TION, n.** Coloring; pattern or mode of coloring, or the colors collectively.
- COLUMEL'LA, n.** Bone or cartilage of the inner ear of *Sauropsida*, answering to the *stapes* of mammalia.
- COMB, n.** Erect fleshy lengthwise process, or caruncle, on top of head, as in the domestic cock.
- COMMIS'SURAL POINT.** Point where the apposed edges of the mandibles meet and join; corner of the mouth. Equivalent to angle of the mouth, *angulus oris*.
- COMMISSURE, n.** (Lat. *con* and *mitto*, to put or lay together.) Line of closure of the two mandibles; track or trace of their apposed edges when the jaws are closed. Often improperly used to signify the *opening between* the mandibles; but this is *apertura oris*, *gap*, *ectas*. *Commissure* is the whole *rima oris*, outline of the mouth, when such outline of upper and under jaw is made one in closure of the mouth.
- COMPLEX'US, n.** Name of a certain cervical muscle.
- COMPRESSED', a.** Narrowed sidewise; higher than wide. The opposite of *depressed*.
- COMPRESSED' (tail), a.** Folded together, as in the barnyard cock. = *Cauda compressa*.
- CON'VRIUM, n.** Same as *PINEAL BODY* (which see).
- CON'CAVE, a.** Hollowed, as the inner side of a curved line or inner face of a curved surface. Opposite of *convex*.
- CON'DYLE, n.** Articular eminence of bone in hinge-joints.
- CON'FLUENT, a.** Run together; grown together; coalesced.
- CONIROS'TRAL, a.** Having a conical bill, like a sparrow's.
- CONJUNCTIVA, n.** Vascular membrane lining the eyelids and reflected over the front of the eyeball.
- CON'NATE, a.** Born or produced together; originally united; joined from the beginning. *Connation* is earlier and more intimate or complete union than *confluence*.
- CONTINU'ITY, n.** Part of a thing between its ends in any way distinguished.
- CON'TOUR FEATH'ERS, n.** The general plumage of perfect feathers, lying external and determining the superficial shape of a bird. Distinguished from *down feathers*.
- COR'ACOID (bone), n.** Large stout bone connecting shoulder with sternum.
- COR'DATE, { a. Heart-shaped.**
- COR'DIFORM, {**
- CORIA'CEOUS, a.** Denoting integument of dense, tough, leathery texture.
- CO'R'IUM, n.** Same as *CUTIS* (which see).
- COR'NEA, n.** Transparent portion of the eyeball.
- COR'NEOUS, a.** Horny.
- COR'NIPLUME, a.** Tuft of feathers on head, erected like a horn.
- COR'NU, n.** Horn.
- CORO'NA, n.** Top of head. Equivalent to cap or pileus. Vertex is the highest point of corona.
- COR'ONATE, a.** Having coronal feathers lengthened or otherwise distinguished.
- COR'PUS, n.** Body, as a whole.
- COR'PUS CALLO'SUM, n.** Mass of transverse



- white fibres, connecting the cerebral hemispheres; wanting in birds.
- CORTICAL, *a.* External, as opposed to *medial*.
- COSTAL, *a.* Pertaining to the ribs.
- COSTIFEROUS, *a.* Rib-bearing, as the dorsal vertebrae.
- COTYLI, *n.* Same as ACETABULUM.
- COXA, *n.* Hip.
- CRANIAL, *a.* Pertaining to the skull.
- CRANIUM, *n.* Skull.
- CREST, *n.* Any lengthened feathers of top of head.
- CRISTATE, *a.* or sides of head.
- CRIBRIFORM, *a.* Sieve-like.
- CRICOID, *a.* Name of a certain laryngeal cartilage.
- CRISSEM, *n.* Properly, the under tail-coverts collectively. Often used to designate the circumanal plumage. (66.)
- CROTAPHYTE (*depression*). A concavity on the outside of the skull on each side behind, filled with muscle; temporal fossa.
- CROWN, *n.* Pileus; top of head, especially the vertex.
- CRUCIAL, *a.* In the shape of a cross. The CRUCIFORM, *a.* *crucial test* is one experimentally conclusive.
- CRUREUS, *n.* Name of a certain muscle of the thigh.
- CRURAL, *a.* Pertaining to the crus, or shin.
- CRUS, *n.* The shin; segment of the leg between the thigh and ankle, represented by the tibia.
- CRYSTALLINE (*lens*), *a.* See LENS.
- CRIBIT, *n.* The forearm.
- CUBITAL, *a.* Pertaining to the forearm.
- CUCULATE, *a.* Hooded.
- CUL-DE-SAC, *n.* "Bottom of a bag"; closed end of a cavity.
- CULMEN, *n.* Ridge of upper mandible; highest median lengthwise line of the bill. (20.)
- CULMINAL, *a.* Pertaining to the culmen.
- CULTRIROSUS, *a.* Having the bill shaped like a heron's.
- CUNATE, *a.* Wedge-shaped. A cunate CUNIFORM, *a.* tail has the middle feathers longest, the rest successively regularly shortened.
- CUNIFORM (*bone*), *n.* One of the wrist-bones.
- CURSORY, *a.* Running; pertaining or belonging to an obsolete group, *Cursores* or runners.
- CUSPIDATE, *a.* Pointed as a spear-head.
- CUTANEOUS, *a.* Pertaining to the skin. Same as *dermal*.
- CUTICLE, *n.* Scarf-skin; outermost layer of skin, which continually exfoliates.
- CUTIS, *n.* Skin; the true skin, as distinguished from cuticle and subcutaneous tissue. *Corium* and *derma* are synonymous.
- CYST, *n.* Sac holding pathological products.
- D.**
- DACTYL, *n.* Finger or toe. Equivalent to *digit*.
- DACTYLOTHECA, *n.* Covering of the toes.
- DASYDROM, *a.* Synonymous with *pelopodid*.
- DECIDUOUS, *a.* Temporary; falling early. The dorsal plumes of the egret are *deciduous*.
- DECOMPOSED, *a.* Separate; standing apart. A *decomposed* crest has the feathers standing away from each other.
- DECUMBENT, *a.* Lying or hanging downward.
- DECURVED, *a.* Gradually curved downward. Opposed to *recurved*.
- DECUSATE, *a.* Crossed; intersected.
- DEFECATION, *n.* Act of discharging the contents of the cloaca.
- DEGLUTITION, *n.* Act of swallowing.
- DEJECTION, *n.* Same as defecation. Also, the matters so discharged.
- DELTOID, *a.* Triangular. A muscle over the shoulder is so named.
- DEMI- (*in composition*). Half; same as *semis*.
- DENTARY, *n.* An epithet of the foremost element of the compound mandibular bone.
- DENTATE, *a.* Toothed; notched as if
- DENTICULATE, *a.* toothed.
- DENTIFEROUS, *a.* Bearing teeth. The *Ichthyornis*, *Apatornis*, and *Odontopterus* are *denticulous* birds.
- DENTIROSTRAL, *a.* Having the bill notched as if toothed. Belonging to a certain obsolete order, *Dentirostres*.
- DENTIATION, *n.* Act of cutting teeth.
- DENUATION, *n.* State of nakedness; act of laying bare.
- DENUDED, *a.* Naked; laid bare.
- DEORSUM, *n.* Below.
- DEPLUMATE, *a.* Bare of feathers. (4.)
- DEPLUMATUS, *a.* Bare of feathers. (4.)
- DEPRESSED, *a.* Flattened vertically. Opposite of *compressed*.
- DEREUM, *n.* Bottom or lower part of the neck. (Little used.)
- DERMAL, *a.* Pertaining to the skin; made of skin; cutaneous.
- DERMAL APPENDAGE, *n.* Any outgrowth from the skin.
- DEROTHECA, *a.* Covering of end of bill.
- DERTRUM, *n.* End of maxilla, in any way distinguished. (21.)
- DESMOGNATHOUS, *a.* Having the palate bones united.
- DESMOID, *a.* Ligamentous.
- DESQUAMATION, *n.* Peeling off.
- DEXTRAD, *a.* Toward the right side.
- DEXTRAL, *a.* Of or on the right side.
- DI- (*in composition*). Twice; double.
- DIAGNOSIS, *n.* Distinctive knowledge. Also characterization, or a brief, precise, and exclusively pertinent definition. *Diagnosis* is nearly synonymous in this sense with *definition*; both differ from *description* in omitting non-essential particulars; but *definition* may include points equally applicable to some other object.
- DIAGNOSTIC, *a.* Distinctively and exclusively characteristic. Feathers are *diagnostic* of birds.
- DIAPHANOUS, *a.* Transparent.
- DIAPHRAGM, *n.* Midriff; musculo-tendinous partition between thorax and abdomen, rudimentary or wanting in birds.
- DIAPHRAGMATIC, *a.* Pertaining to the diaphragm.
- DIAPHYSIS, *n.* Transverse process of a vertebra.
- DIARTHROSIS, *n.* Movable articulation of bones in general.

**DIAS/TASIS**, { *n.* A separation of bones, par-  
**DIAS/TEMA**, { ticularly the cranial ones, or of  
 teeth, from each other.  
**DIAS/TOLE**, *n.* Dilatation of the heart, alter-  
 nating with the *systole* or contraction, occa-  
 sioning pulsation.  
**DICHOTOMOUS**, *a.* Divided into pairs.  
**DICHROMATIC**, *a.* Of two colors, as the "red"  
 and "gray" plumages of *Scoptes asio*.  
**DIDAC/TYLOUS**, *a.* Two-toed, as the ostrich.  
**DIGAS/TRIC**, *a.* Double-bellied; name of a  
 certain muscle.  
**DIGIT/IGRADE**, *a.* Walking on the toes. Op-  
 posed to *plantigrade*.  
**DIGITUS**, *n.*; pl. *digiti*. Digit. Finger or toe.  
 (116.)  
**DIMORPHIC**, *a.* Of two forms.  
**DIPLO/E**, *n.* Light spongy network of bone be-  
 tween inner and outer surface of the skull.  
**DISC or DISK**, *n.* Set of radiating feathers of  
 peculiar shape or texture around the eye of  
 owls.  
**DISSEMIN/TUM NAR/UM**, *n.* Same as *sep-  
 tum narium*, which see.  
**DIS/TAD**, *a.* Toward an extremity.  
**DIS/TAL**, *a.* Remote; situate at or near an ex-  
 tremity; opposed to *proximal*.  
**DIS/TICHOTS**, *a.* Two-rowed; spread apart on  
 either side of a middle line, as the hairs of a  
 squirrel's tail, or the tail-feathers of the *Ar-  
 cheophaga*.  
**DITOK/OUS**, *a.* Producing but two eggs, as the  
 pigeon and humming-bird.  
**DIURNAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the daytime.  
**DIVAR/ICATE**, *a.* Branching off; spreading  
 apart; curving away.  
**DIVERTIC/ULUM**, *n.* An offshoot of the small  
 intestine.  
**DOR/SAD**, *a.* Toward the back. Opposite of  
*ventrad*.  
**DOR/SAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the back.  
**DORSUM**, *n.* Back; upper surface of trunk  
 from neck to rump. (57.)  
**DOWN**, *n.* Small soft feathers of plumulaceous  
 structure, generally growing about the roots  
 of *plumæ*, and concealed by them. See  
**PLUMULE**.  
**DOWN/Y**, *a.* Of plumulaceous structure. A  
 part of the plumage is of down-feathers, and  
 the bases of the contour feathers usually also  
 are of *downy* structure.  
**DUCT**, *a.* Any tube for conveyance of an animal  
 product; as *oviduct*, *sperm-duct*, *lachry-  
 mal duct*.  
**DUOD/ENAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the duodenum.  
**DUOD/ENUM**, *n.* A short portion of the upper  
 intestine next to the gizzard, receiving the  
 pancreatic and hepatic secretions.  
**DUR/A MA'TER**, *n.* Outer membranous invest-  
 ment of the brain.  
**DUSK/Y**, *a.* Of any undefined dark color.

## E.

**EARED**, *a.* Having lengthened or highly col-  
 ored auricular or other feathers on the side of  
 the head. *Eared grebe*; *long-eared owl*.  
**EC/DYSIS**, *n.* Moulting; the shedding and renewal  
 of plumage.  
**ECON/OMY** (also written *œconomy*), *n.* Physical  
 or physiological disposition. (Literally, regu-  
 lation of a household.)  
**ECTO-** (*in composition*). Outer.  
**ECTOZO/ON**, *n.* External parasite, as a louse;  
 same as *opazion*. Opposed to *catocoon*.  
**EDEN/TATE**, { *a.* Toothless, as nearly all  
**EDEN/TULOUS**, { birds are.  
**EDGE OF WING**. (95.) See **CAMPTERIUM**.  
**EFF/ERENT**, *a.* Conveying outward or away;  
 opposed to *afferent*.  
**ELEMENT**, *n.* A simple ultimate constituent  
 part of a compound organ. The centrum is  
 an *element* of a vertebra.  
**EL/EVATED**, *a.* Said of the hind toe when in-  
 serted above the level of the others.  
**ELON/GATE**, *a.* Lengthened beyond usual ratio.  
**EMAR/GINATE**, *a.* Notched at the end; slightly  
 forked, especially in case of a tail so shaped;  
 also notched, or abruptly narrowed along the  
 edge, in its continuity, as the border of many  
 a wing-quill.  
**EMBRONPOINT**, *n.* State of perfect health, as in-  
 dicated by condition of fatness not amounting  
 to corpulence or obesity.  
**EM/BRYO**, *n.* Fecundated germ or rudiment of  
 an animal; said of a bird until hatched, and  
 therefore corresponding to *fœtus* in mammal-  
 ogy.  
**EMBRYOL/OGY**, *n.* Science or study of the de-  
 velopment of animals before birth or hatching.  
**EMBRYON/IC**, *a.* Pertaining to an embryo; be-  
 ing an embryo; not yet hatched.  
**ENAM/EL**, *n.* The hard white substance cover-  
 ing the teeth.  
**ENARTHRO/SIS**, *n.* Ball-and-socket joint.  
**ENCEPH/ALON**, *n.* Contents of the cranium,  
 especially the brain.  
**ENDOCAR/DIUM**, *n.* Lining membrane of the  
 heart.  
**ENDOGEN/OUS**, *a.* Of internal growth or forma-  
 tion; interstitially deposited. Compare *au-  
 togenous*. Opposed to *exogenous*.  
**ENDOSKEL/ETON**, *n.* The skeleton proper, or  
 skeleton as commonly understood; the inner  
 bony framework of the body. (Used in dis-  
 tinction from *exoskeleton* or *dermoskeleton*,  
 such as some animals possess.)  
**ENTER/IC**, *a.* Belonging or relating to the in-  
 testines; intestinal.  
**ENTO-** (*in composition*). Inner.  
**EPENCEPH/ALON**, *n.* Hindmost segment of the  
 brain.  
**EPI-** (*in composition*). On; upon; over. Op-  
 posed to *hypo-*.  
**EPIDER/MIS**, *n.* Cuticle or scarf-skin.  
**EPIDID/YMIS**, *n.* An associate organ of the tes-  
 tis, in birds apparently a remnant of the pri-  
 mordial kidney.  
**EPIGAS/TRIUM**, *n.* Pit of stomach; upper belly,  
 next to breast. (A region not well distin-  
 guished in birds. The term is scarcely used.)  
 (64.)  
**EPIGLOT/TIS**, *n.* Gristly flap on top of wind-  
 pipe, rudimentary or wanting in birds.  
**EPIGNATH/OUS**, *a.* Hook-billed.  
**EPIOT/IC**, *a.* for *n.* A certain element of the  
 auditory capsule.  
**EPIPH/YSIS**, *n.* Gristly cap on the end of a  
 bone, afterward becoming bony and united.

EPHIPPURA, *a.* An obliquely backward bony process of a vertebral rib.  
 EPITHETUM, *n.* Superadded layer of mucous membrane. Sometimes also the thick tough membrane lining the gizzard.  
 EPITHYMA, *n.* Horny excrescence upon the bill.  
 EPIZOON, *n.* An external parasite.  
 EPIZOOTIC, *a.* Parasitic among animals.  
 ERUPTIVE, *a.* Susceptible of being raised, as a crest; or capable of swelling and stiffening, as a penis.  
 ERUPTIVUM, *a.* A particular state of plumage characterized by excess of red pigment; it is well shown in *Scops asio* and other owls. (Compare *fulvus* and *melanocephalus*.)  
 ETHMOID, *n.* One of the cranial bones, in the nasal region.  
 ETYPICAL, *a.* Of exceptional character. Tending away from a particular type. Opposed to *atypical*.  
 EUSTA'CHIAN (tube), *a.* for *n.* The air-tube from the fauces to the inner ear.  
 EVEN (tail), *a.* Having all the feathers of equal length. Also called *cauda æqualis* or *integra*.  
 EX- (in composition). Out; out of; away from.  
 EXCRESCENCE, *n.* Outgrowth, fleshy or cutaneous.  
 EXCRETA, *n. pl.* Excrement, or other animal refuse.  
 EXCRETORY or EXCRETIVE, *a.* Having power or quality of excreting. *Excreting* differs from *secreting*, in that the substance resulting is to be eliminated from the economy, not used; e. g. saliva is *secreted*; urea is *excreted*.  
 EXOCCIPITAL, *a.* or *n.* One of the lateral elements of the occipital bone.  
 EXOSTOSES, *n.* Produced by outgrowth.  
 EXOSTOSIS, *n.* Any morbid bony outgrowth or enlargement.  
 EXTENSOR, *n.* Generic name of muscles that extend or straighten a limb or any of its segments.  
 EXTENSOR TOES. (126.)  
 EXTREMITY, *n.* Any limb, member; equal to *membrum, actus*.  
 EYAS, *n.* An unfledged hawk.  
 EYEBROW, *n.* (43.) See SUPERCILIUM.  
 EY'RY or EY'RIE, *n.* Nest of a bird of prey.

## F.

FABELLA, *n.* A certain sesamoid bone.  
 FA'CET, *n.* Smooth, flattened articulating surface.  
 FA'CIAL, *a.* Pertaining to the face.  
 FA'CIES, *n.* Face; whole front of head, excepting the bill.  
 FE'CAL, *a.* Pertaining to excrement; excrementitious.  
 FE'CES, *n. pl.* Excrement; dung.  
 FA'CALE, {  
 FA'LCIFORM, { *a.* Sickle-shaped; scythe-shaped.  
 FA'LCINE, *a.* Like a hawk; belonging to the *Falconidae*.  
 FALSE WING. (79.) See ALULA.  
 FALX CEREBRI, *n.* A certain fold of the *dura mater*.  
 FAMILY, *n.* Systematic group of the grade between order and genus, generally distin-

guished or denoted by the termination *-idae*, as *Falconidae*.  
 FAS'CIA, *n.* Broad band of color. Also, equivalent to APONEUROSIS (which see).  
 FAS'CIATED, *a.* Broadly banded with color.  
 FAS'CICLE, *n.* Bundle.  
 FAS'CILED, {  
 FAS'CULATE, { *a.* Bundled.  
 FASTIG'iate, *a.* Bundled together into conical shape, or with enlarged head, like a wheat-sheaf.  
 FAUCES, *n.* The jaws, internally; back of the mouth. Compare PHARYNX.  
 FEATHER, *n.* (1; 143.) See PLUMA, PENNA. Any one of the objects which collectively constitute the peculiar covering of birds.  
 FECULENT, *a.* Excrementitious.  
 FECUN'DATED, *a.* Impregnated; made fruitful; said of the germ of an egg which has received the male element.  
 FECUN'DATION, *n.* Impregnation; the usual consequence of the completed joint act of the ovarian and spermiatic organs.  
 FECUN'DITY, *n.* Fruitfulness.  
 FEM'ORAL, *a.* Pertaining to the thigh, or part of leg from hip to knee.  
 FEMUR, *n.* Thigh-bone. Also used synonymously with *thigh*. (97.)  
 FENESTRATE, *a.* Furnished with openings (from *fenestra*, a window).  
 FE'RAL, *a.* Wild; not tamed. Opposed to *domestic*. The mallard is the *feral* stock of the tame duck.  
 FERRUGINEOUS or FERRUGINOUS, *a.* Rusty-red.  
 FE'TUS or Fœ'TUS, *n.* Unborn young. (But the unhatched young of birds are oftener called *embryos*.)  
 FIBRILLA, *n.*; *pl. fibrillæ*. Little fibre.  
 FIBRIN, *a.* Certain animal substance of fibrous composition, found in the blood and elsewhere.  
 FI'BRIO-CAR'TILAGE, *n.* A kind of cartilage of fibrous structure, such as that between vertebrae and many other joints.  
 FIB'ULA, *n.* Smaller outer leg-bone, lying alongside the tibia.  
 FIL'AMENT, *n.* Thread or slender fibre.  
 FILAMENTOUS, {  
 FILIFORM, { *a.* Threadlike; composed of filaments; oftener, very narrowly linear.  
 FILOPLUMA/CEOUS, *a.* Having the structure of a filoplume.  
 FILOPLUME, *n.* Thread-like or hair-like feather; one with slender scape, and without web in most or all of its length.  
 FIM'BRIATED, *a.* Fringed.  
 FISSIPAL/MATE, *a.* Lobiped and semipalmate, as a grebe's foot is.  
 FIS'SIPED, *a.* Having cleft toes. Opposed to *palmiped*.  
 FISSIROSTRAL, *a.* Having the bill cleft far beyond the base of its horny part.  
 FISSIROSTR'ES, *n.* An obsolete order of cleft-billed birds.  
 FLAM'MULATED, *a.* Pervaded with reddish color.  
 FLANK, *n.* Hinder part of side of trunk. (67.)  
 FLAP, *n.* See LOMA.  
 FLEX'ION, *n.* Bending (of a limb). Opposed to *extension*.



- FLEX'OR, n.** Generic name of a muscle that bends a limb or any of its segments.
- FLEX'URA (or) a, n.** Bend of the wing; caput angle; salient angle or prominence formed at the wrist when the wing is folded. (77.)
- FLEX'URE, n.** See **FLEXURA**.
- FLOC'ULENT, a.** Pertaining to the peculiar down of newly hatched or unfledged young birds. (Not used in ornithology in its common sense of *flaky*.)
- FLOC'ULUS, n.** A peculiar kind of plumage of simple structure (generally downy), found in unfledged birds, at first growing directly from the skin, afterwards for the most part affixed to the tip of the true feather, of which it is the precursor, or rather the first-formed part; and finally falling off. In psilopædic birds the *flocus* is only associated with the true plumage, sprouting from the future pteryx alone; in ptilopædic birds it also sprouts from the apteria, and in so far is unconnected with future plumage; the whole body is in such cases densely clothed. (*Synaloca*.)
- FŒTUS, n.** Same as **FETUS** (which see).
- FOL'ICLE, n.** Minute secretory sac.
- FOLLIC'ULAR, a.** Having follicles; composed
- FOLLIC'ULATE, n.** of follicles.
- FOOT, n.** (112.) See **PES**.
- FOOT-JOINT, n.** Junction of toes collectively with the metatarsus. (100.) See **PODARTHRIUM**.
- FORA'MEN, n.; pl. foram'ina.** Hole; opening; perforation. *Foramen magnum*, the large hole in the occipital bone transmitting the neural axis. *Foramen lacerum*, irregular vacancy between certain bones at base of skull. The *foramen rotundum* transmits the optic nerve; *foramen ovale*, the trigeminal nerve; the latter is also a name of the opening between right and left sides of the heart.
- FORE'HEAD, n.** Front of head from bill to crown. (34.) See **FRONS**.
- FORE-NECK, a.** Whole front of collum, from chin to breast; whole throat. (51.) See **GUTTUR**.
- FORFICATE, a.** Deeply forked.
- FORKED (tail), a.** Having the outer feathers longest, the rest gradually successively shortened to the middle pair; when these are again lengthened somewhat, the tail is said to be *doubly forked*.
- FOS'SA, n.; pl. fossæ.** Ditch; excavated place. Used chiefly in the plural to denote the pits or grooves in which most birds' nostrils open.
- FOS'SIL, a. or n.** Dug out of the ground. Particularly, any organized body, or remains, trace, or mould of such body, naturally buried in past time by geologic agencies. The *Archæopteryx macrurus*, of the Jurassic formation of Solenhofen, a mesozoic bird, is the oldest known ornithic fossil.
- FOS'SORIAL, a.** Digging into the earth for a habitation.
- FOSTER, n.** This word and its various compounds are used in their common senses in treating of the relations of young cowbirds and young cuckoos with the birds upon which they are parasitic.
- FOVEA, n.** A slight depression.
- FREE, a.** Said of the leg when not enclosed to the knee in the common integument of the body.
- FRE'NUM, a.** Bridle; hence, any cheek-stripe.
- FRINGE, n.** Marginal membrane; also, marginal row of feathers. (135.) See **LOMA**.
- FRINGED TOE, n.** (134.)
- FRONS, n.** Forehead. (34.)
- FRON'TAL, a.** Pertaining to the forehead.
- FRON'TAL BONE, n.** Principal bone of the forehead.
- FRON'TAL POINTS.** See **ANTLÆ**. (36.)
- FRONT OF TARSUS.** Instep. (104.)
- FRUGIV'OROUS, a.** Fruit-eating.
- FULIG'INOUS, a.** Sooty-brown; dark smoky brown.
- FUL'VOUS, a.** Of a brownish-yellow color.
- FUR'CAT, a.** Forked; forficat.
- FUR'CULA or FUR'CULUM, n.** The merry-thought or wish-bone; the two clavicles or collar-bones taken together. Also called *os furcatum*.
- FUS'COUS, a.** Of a dark-brown color.
- FUSIFORM, a.** Spindle-shaped; tapering at each end.

## G.

- GAL'EATE, a.** Covered as with a helmet; said of certain gallinules, coots, etc.
- GALL, n.** Bile; the secretion of the liver.
- GALL-BLAD'DER, n.** Membranous sac attached to liver for holding bile.
- GALL-DUCT, n.** Tube for conveyance of bile into the intestine; the *ductus choledochus*.
- GALLINA'CEOUS, a.** Belonging to the *Gallinæ*; having the nature of the domestic fowl.
- GANG'LION, n.; pl. ganglia.** Natural knot-like enlargement of a nerve.
- GAPE, n.** Opening of the mouth; area of the opened mouth. (28.) Compare **RICTUS** and **COMMISSURE**.
- GASTRÆ'UM, n.** The whole under part of a bird. (16.)
- GAS'TRIC, a.** Pertaining to the stomach or belly. The *gastric* juice of birds is the secretion of the *proventriculus*, or follicular stomach, not of the gizzard or grinding muscular stomach.
- GASTROCNEMIUS, n.** A muscle of the back of the leg.
- GEMEL'LI, n. pl.** The twins; certain muscles of the pelvis.
- GE'NA, n.** Cheek; feathered side of under mandible. (43.) See **MALAR REGION**.
- GENERATIVE OR'GANS, n.** Organs of reproduction in either sex.
- GENERIC, n.** Pertaining to a genus; as, *generic* character, *generic* description.
- GEN'ESIS, n.** Act, mode, or conditions of reproduction. In science, *genesis* notes rather the laws and results of origination of individuals or species. The "genesis of species" is a term equivalent to the evolution of species from antecedent forms, with some; with others, their origination by creative fiat.
- GENET'IC, a.** Pertaining to genesis. *Genetic* descent, or *genetic* succession in species, is maintained by those who hold the theory of evolution.
- GE'NU, n.** Knee; joint of femur with tibia.
- GE'NUS, n.; pl. gen'era.** An assemblage of



- species, or a single species, constituting a taxonomic group of value next below that of the family.
- GEN'YS, *n.* See GONYX.
- GER'MINAL VES'ICLE, *n.* Cell in the vitellus having a dark spot.
- GIBBOSE, } *a.* Swollen; protuberant; humped;  
GIBBOS, } humped.
- GIBBOSITY, *n.* A swelling or protuberance.
- GIB'ULUM, *a.* Gizzard.
- GIN'GLYMUS, *n.* Hinge-joint. The knee and elbow are *ginglymoid*, or hinged joints.
- GLAB'ROUS, *a.* Smooth.
- GLAND, *n.* A soft fleshy organ, in which fluids of the body are modified to form new products, to be used in, or eliminated from, the economy. But some organs without ducts, and the function of which is unknown, are called *glands*, as the thymus, thyroid, and pineal. The liver is the largest *gland* of the body. The proventriculus is a *glandular* organ.
- GLAN'DULAR, *a.* Pertaining to glands; having glands; consisting of glands.
- GLANS, *n.* Head of the penis.
- GLOS'SA or GLOT'TA, *n.* Tongue.
- GLOS'SO-HY'AL, *n.* Principal bone of the tongue.
- GLOS'SO-PHARYN'GEAL, *a.* Pertaining to the tongue and jaws. A certain nerve is so called.
- GLU'TEAL, *a.* Pertaining to the buttocks; certain muscles are so called.
- GLU'TEUS, *n.* A muscle of the side of the rump.
- GNATHID'ICUM, *n.*; pl. *gnathidia*. Branch of the lower jaw as far as it is naked. (Often used in the plural.) (24.)
- GNATHOTHE'CA, *n.* Covering of the lower mandible. (14.)
- GONYDE'AL, *a.* Pertaining to the mandibular symphysis.
- GO'NYS, *n.* Keel or lower outline of the bill as far as the mandibular rami are united. (The word is commonly but erroneously so written, as if from the Greek *gonu*, knee, or protuberance of the bill; it is rather from the Greek *gonus* (*gonos*), signifying chin. - *Sunderall*.)
- GOR'GET, *n.* Throat-patch, distinguished by color or texture of the feathers.
- GRA'DIENT, *a.* Walking or running by steps. Opposed to *saltatoria*, or leaping.
- GRAD'UATED, *a.* Changing length at regular intervals, in regular succession; said chiefly of the tail when its feathers regularly shorten successively by more and more from the middle to the outer.
- GRAMINIV'OROUS, *a.* Grass-eating.
- GRANIV'OROUS, *a.* Seed-eating.
- GRAN'ULATE, *a.* Roughened with numerous small elevations, like shagreen. (Said chiefly of the tarsus.)
- GREATER WING-COV'ERTS, *n.* The single, longest, most posterior series of the secondary set. (92.)
- GROUND-COL'OR (in *oölogy*), *n.* The color of the general surface of the egg-shell, as distinguished from its markings.
- GRYPAN'ICUM, *a.* Noting a particular form of bill, in which the culmen is nearly straight, but bent down at the tip.
- GU'LA, *n.* Upper foreneck, adjoining chin; upper throat. (52.)
- GU'LAR, *a.* Pertaining to the upper foreneck.
- GUT'TATE, *n.* Having drop-shaped spots.
- GUT'TIFORM, *a.* Drop-shaped.
- GUT'TUR, *n.* The whole foreneck. (51.) (But *guttural* is rarely used in this connection.)
- GYMNOPE'DIC, *n.* Synonymous with *psilopodia*.
- GYMNORH'NAL, *a.* Having unfeathered nostrils.

## H.

- HAB'ITAT, *n.* Locality or region frequented by a species; its geographical distribution.
- HAB'ITUS, *n.* Habitude; mode of life.
- HACK'LE, *n.* Long cervical feather of the domestic cock.
- HÆ'MAL ARCH, *n.* The lower ring of a (ideally or actually) complete vertebra, enclosing a section of the principal vascular and visceral systems, as the neural arch does a section of the principal nervous system. In birds the hæmal arch is complete only in the thoracic region.
- HÆ'MAL SPINE, *n.* An ideal transverse section of the sternum corresponding to any one pair of ribs, completing the hæmal arch inferiorly.
- HÆMAPOPH'YSIS, *n.* Segment, actual or potential, of the hæmal arch between the pleurapophysis and hæmal spine. In birds it actually exists in the thoracic region, as the *sternal rib*, movably articulated with the sternum and the vertebral rib, which latter is the pleurapophysis.
- HÆMATIT'IC, *a.* Of a bloody-red color.
- HÆMATOTHER'MA, *n.* Warm-blooded animals collectively; the antithesis is *hamatocrya*.
- HALLUCAL, *a.* Pertaining to the hallux.
- HALL'UX, *n.* The hind toe. The name is retained, even when the hind toe is brought round to the front. When the toes are in pairs, it is the inner of the two hind ones, excepting in *Trogonidæ*. In the genus *Picoides* the actual single hind toe is not the hallux, but the fourth toe reversed, there being no hallux. This toe may always be recognized by presence of not more than two joints. It is the one usually wanting in three-toed birds, and is frequently rudimentary or functionless, even when present. Its large size, with largest claw, and specialization of its flexor muscle, marks the passerine or highest group of birds. (129.) (Sometimes written *hallux* or *allex*.)
- HALO'NES, *n. pl.* Certain appearances of the yolk, probably due to the margins of its successive layers.
- HAM'ULATE, *a.* Hooked.
- HAM'ULUS, *n.*; pl. *hamuli*. Hooked fringe of a barbule; hooked barbicel.
- HAND-QUILLS, *n.* Primary remiges. (75.)
- HAS'TATE, *a.* Spear-head shaped.
- HEAD, *n.* (9, 29.)
- HEEL, *n.* (107.) See CALCANEUS and TALUS.
- Upper back part of tarso-metatarsus (tarsus or shank), rarely resting on the ground in birds when standing erect. (Commonly, but most improperly, called *knee*.)
- HEEL-JOINT, *n.* (103.) See SUFFRAGO. The tibio-tarsal articulation, as it is called; that

- between the leg (crus), and the tarso-metatarsus (shank). With few exceptions among certain *Raptores*, it always bends backward; the *hallux* always has its convexity forward.
- HEEL-PAD**, *n.* (115.) Pterna; tuber (which see). The posterior portion of *propoda*, lying directly under the foot joint, and frequently prominent. (But *heel-pad* should not be used in this connection, since the *heel* (*calcaneus*) is at the top of the tarsus, and not at the bottom where the *heel-pad* lies.) (115.)
- HEMI-** (*in composition*). Semi-; demi-; half.
- HEPATIC**, *a.* Pertaining to the liver; as, *hepatic* artery, *hepatic* secretion.
- HETEROGENEOUS**, *a.* Of different or dissimilar nature; of mixed or miscellaneous character.
- HENAGON**, *a.* Figure of six sides and six edges.
- HEXAGONAL**, *a.* Having six sides and edges.
- HIBERNAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the winter time. (Neither this nor *estival* are much used, although *vernal* and *autumnal* are continually employed.)
- HIND-NECK**, *a.* (18.) See *CERVIX*.
- HIND-TOE**, *a.* (129.) See *HALUX*.
- HINDER PARTS**, *a.* (8.) See *URETHRA*.
- HIP**, *n.* Joint of femur with pelvis; projection formed by femoral trochanter over the joint.
- HIRSUITE**, *a.* Hairy; rather shaggy, as the feet of a grouse.
- HISTOGENY**, *n.* Formation of tissue.
- HISTOLOGY**, *n.* Minute anatomy; history of tissue.
- HISTOLOGY**, *n.* Laws of formation of tissue.
- HOARLY**, *a.* Of a pale silvery gray.
- HOLORHINAL**, *a.* Having the nasal bones contiguous.
- HOMOGENEITY**, *n.* Sameness; structural similarity.
- HOMOGENEITY**, *a.* Of the same kind or nature. Opposed to *heterogeneous*. A *homogeneous* group contains only structurally related forms.
- HOMOLOGICAL**, *a.* Structurally related; having structural affinity.
- HOMOLOGOUS**, *a.* Ing structural affinity. Opposed to *analogous*, which implies similarity of appearance, purpose, or use without corresponding affinity.
- HOMOLGY**, *n.* Structural affinity, generally implying genetic relationship. Opposed to *analogy*, or mere resemblance.
- HOMOTYPICAL**, *a.* Of the same type of structure.
- HOMOTYPY**, *n.* A particular kind of homology.
- HORNOTINE**, *a.* or *n.* Yearling; a bird of the year.
- HUMERAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the humerus, or, more generally, to the upper arm.
- HUMERUS**, *n.* The upper arm bone; sometimes the whole upper-arm, from shoulder to elbow.
- HYALINE**, *a.* Transparent, like glass; said
- HYALOID**, *a.* chiefly of the vitreous humor of the eye, and of certain appurtenances of the back chamber of the eye.
- HYBRID**, *a.* or *n.* Cross-born between two species; mongrel.
- HYBRIDIZATION**, *n.* Cross-fertilization. Production of hybrids.
- HYBRIDIZE**. To cross and bear mongrel offspring.
- HYOID**, *a.* Pertaining to the *os hyoides* or tongue-bone, or, more generally, to the tongue itself.
- HYAPOPHYSIS**, *n.* Bony process from the under side of a vertebra, sometimes very large, as in the loon.
- HYPER-** (*in composition*). Same as *super-* (which see).
- HYPERBOREAN**, *a.* Northern; boreal.
- HYPERCHROMATISM**, *n.* State of unusually increased or intensified coloration.
- HYPERTROPHY**, *n.* Inordinate enlargement of a part or organ, due to excessive nutrition. The opposite of *atrophy*, or the wasting away of an organ through deficient nutrition.
- HYPO-** (*in composition*). Same as *sub-* (which see).
- HYPOCHONDRIUM**, *n.* The flank. (Often used in the plural, *hypochondria*, flanks.) (67.)
- HYPODACTYLUM**, *n.* Soles of the toes. (118.)
- HYPOGASTRIC**, *a.* Under or behind the belly. (Little used).
- HYPOGNATHOUS**, *a.* Having the under mandible longer than the upper, as the black skimmer.
- HYPOPTILUM**, *n.* Supplementary plume, or accessory plume, springing from the same barrel of the main feather. Generally found, but wanting in many families, and always on the quills of the wings and tail. Synonymous with *hyporrhachis* as generally used.
- HYPORACHIS**, *n. pl.* Barbs of the hypoptilum.
- HYPORRHACHIS**, *n.* Aftershaft; stem or scape of the supplementary plume. Generally used for the whole of such accessory feather, but best thus restricted.
- HYPOTHESIS**, *n.* A reasonable presumption or supposition taken as premise of an argument, or as probably true, to account for what is not understood. As it does not necessarily rest upon fact, it has not the weight or dignity of *theory*.
- HYPOTHETICAL**, *a.* Reasonably presumptive; logically supposititious; conditional; assumed without proof but with fair probability.

## I.

- IDENTIFICATION**, *n.* Act or process of determining to what species a specimen or a name belongs; the determination so made.
- IDENTIFY**. To determine the name of a specimen or of a species; to ascertain the identity of a certain specimen with a name, or name with a certain species.
- IGNOBLE**, *a.* Said of hawks lacking the special qualities of those used in falconry.
- ILEUM**, *n.* Lower portion of small intestine.
- ILIAC**, *a.* Relating to the ilium, or haunch-bone; also, to the ileum.
- ILIUM**, *n.* Haunch-bone; principal bone of the pelvis, forming with the ischium and pubis the *os innominatum*.
- IMBRICATED**, *a.* Fixed shingle-wise with overlapping edge or end.
- IMMACULATE**, *a.* Unspotted; not marked with different colors.

- IMMATURE**, *a.* Not having yet assumed final size, shape, color, or other conditions of the adult.
- IMPERFORATE**, *a.* Not pierced through; also, closed up (as the chiefly of the nostrils).
- IMPLACENTAL**, *a.* Having no placenta. Birds are *implacental*.
- INCISED**, *a.* Cut out; cut away.
- INCUBATION**, *n.* Act of sitting on eggs to hatch them.
- INCLINENT**, *a.* Depressed or bending down upon something; laid at full length; chiefly said of the hind-toe when its whole length rests on the ground or other support, owing to its low insertion on the level of the rest. (131.)
- INCUS**, *a.* A bone of the inner ear of mammalia, held by high authority to be homologous with the *os quadratum* of birds (which see). See also **MALLEUS**.
- INDEX**, *n.* The principal digit of the wing is often so called, but is really homologous with the third or middle finger of mammals; the pollex or so-called thumb of birds being the homologue of the mammalian index.
- INDOLENT**, *n.* Natural disposition.
- INDUMENTUM**, *n.* Covering of birds; the ptilosis or plumage. (142.)
- INFRA-** (*in composition*). Below; under; opposite of *supra-*. It is in part synonymous with *sub-*, but refers only to position, while *sub-* is of more extensive application.
- INFRAMAXILLARY**, *n.* The under jaw bone, or mandible.
- INFRACORBITAL**, *a.* Below the eye-socket.
- INFUNDIBULIFORM**, *a.* Funnel-shaped.
- INFUNDIBULUM**, *n.* Funnel; name of several different organs.
- INGESTA**, *n. pl.* Things eaten; contents of crop or stomach. Opposed to *ejecta*.
- INGULVIES**, *n.* Crop or craw. Also used synonymously with *chin*.
- INGUEN**, *n.* The groin: whence the adj. *inguinal*. (Little used.)
- INGUINAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the groin.
- INNER TOE**, *n.* (127.) In most birds the second is the inner anterior toe; in the trogons, the third or middle toe becomes inner anterior by reversion of the second, which is then inner posterior. In a few exotic kingfishers, the second or inner anterior is rudimentary or wanting. In several birds the hallux or first or hinder toe is reversed, and becomes inner anterior. But in any position the *inner toe*, properly speaking, is the second, that one with only three joints.
- INOMINATE (bone)**, *n.* The pelvic bone, composed of ilium, ischium, and pubis.
- INOSULATION**, *n.* Same as **ANASTOMOSIS** (which see).
- INSECTIVOROUS**, *a.* Insect-eating.
- INSESSORIAL**, *n. pl.* Perching-birds; an order now becoming obsolete.
- INSESSORIAL**, *a.* Relating to perching-birds.
- INSISTENT**, *a.* Said of the hind toe, when its base is so elevated that the tip only touches the ground. (130.)
- INSTRINCT**, *a.* Imperfect reason; the faculty of doing the right thing without knowing why.
- INTEGUMENT**, *n.* A covering or envelope; commonly, the skin.
- INTER- (in composition)**. Between; among.
- INTERARTICULAR**, *a.* Between the joints; in a joint; as, *interarticular cartilage*.
- INTERCOSTAL**, *a.* Between two ribs; as, *intercostal muscle, artery, vein*.
- INTERMAXILLARY (bone)**, *n.* Same as **PREMAXILLARY** (which see).
- INTERNODE**, *n.* Any bone of a finger or toe.
- INTERORBITAL**, *a.* Between the eye-sockets.
- INTERRAMAL**, *a.* Between the forks or rami of the lower jaw.
- INTERRUPTED**, *a.* Discontinuous; broken up.
- INTERSCAPULUM** **INTERSCAPULUM**, *n.* Region of the upper back between the shoulders. (58.)
- INTERSCAPULAR**, *a.* Between the shoulders. The plural, *interscapulars* or *interscapularies*, is used to denote the feathers of such region collectively.
- INVASIVATE**, *a.* Sheathed.
- INVERTEBRATE**, *a.* or *n.* Having no backbone; an animal without a backbone. Opposed to *vertebrate*.
- IRIAN, IRIDIAN**, *a.* Pertaining to the iris.
- IRIDESCENT**, *a.* Glittering with many colors, which change in different lights.
- IRIS**, *n.* Circular muscular curtain suspended perpendicularly in the eye between the aqueous and vitreous chambers, having a hole in the centre (the pupil). It is of all colors in birds.
- ISCHIATIC**, *a.* Pertaining to the ischium.
- ISCHIUM**, *n.* One of the pelvic bones, the hindermost.
- ISH**. A suffix, forming an adjective, usually denoting possession of a quality in less degree; especially used for colors; as, *blackish*, not quite black, etc.
- ISTHMUS**, *n.* Neck or narrow strip connecting two larger portions of same region, patch of color, etc.

## J.

**JAW**, *n.* See **MAXILLA**, **MANDIBLE**.

**JEJUNUM**, *n.* Portion of intestine between duodenum and ileum (not definite, and little used).

**JUGAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the zygoma.

**JUGAL (bone)**, *n.* Same as *malar* bone.

**JUGULAR**, *a.* Pertaining to the jugulum.

**JUGULUM**, *n.* Lower throat; lower foreneck. (53.)

**JUNCTURA**, *n.* Articulation; joint.

## K.

**KITT**, *n.* Same as **GONYX** (which see). (22.)

**KNEE**, *n.* Femoro-tibial articulation. (N. B. The heel-joint, *suffrago*, or tibio-metatarsal articulation, is often improperly called *knee*.) (102.)

## L.

**LABEL**, *n.* Card, ticket, or similar slip of paper, parchment, etc., affixed to an object, giving written information respecting it.



- LAC<sup>'</sup>TRATE, } *a.* Cut or slashed on the edge.  
 LAC<sup>'</sup>ULATE, } or end into a fringe or fringe.  
 LAC<sup>'</sup>RYMAL (*bone*), *a.* A large stout bone forming part of the orbit.  
 LAC<sup>'</sup>UA, *a.* Small pit or depression; often, an open space or vacuity, as in the palate.  
 LAC<sup>'</sup>NE, *a. pl.* Certain small excavations in bone and in mucous membrane.  
 LAC<sup>'</sup>URINE, *a.* Lake-inhabiting.  
 LAME<sup>'</sup>DOID, *a.* L-shaped.  
 LAME<sup>'</sup>LA, *a.*; *pl. lamellar*, } A thin plate or  
 LAM<sup>'</sup>INA, *a.*; *pl. la-ina*, } scale; a plate-like process. The processes inside a duck's bill are lamelle; the individual barbs of a feather are lamule.  
 LAM<sup>'</sup>ELLATE, } *a.* Having, or composed of, lam-  
 LAM<sup>'</sup>INATE, } inæ, or series of plates.  
 LAMELLIROS<sup>'</sup>TRAL, *a.* Having a lamellate bill.  
 LAMELLIROS<sup>'</sup>TRES, *n. pl.* A group of lamellate-billed birds (the duck tribe).  
 LAN<sup>'</sup>CEOLATE, *a.* Lance-head shaped; tapering narrowly at one end, less so at the other.  
 LARYNGE<sup>'</sup>AL, *a.* Pertaining to the larynx.  
 LAR<sup>'</sup>YNX, *n.* Adam's-apple, hollow cartilaginous organ, a modification of the windpipe either at the top or bottom, but especially the former; the lower larynx being called SYRINX (which see).  
 LAT<sup>'</sup>ERAL, *a.* To or towards the side; on either hand from the middle line.  
 LAT<sup>'</sup>ERALLY, *a.* Sidewise.  
 LATIS<sup>'</sup>SIMUS, *a. for n.* A certain muscle of the back.  
 LEGS. (96.)  
 LENS (*crystalline*), *n.* A circular biconvex transparent body in the eye which brings rays of light to a focus.  
 LESSER WING-COVERTS, *n. pl.* The smaller anterior set of secondary coverts in several series upon the *plica alaris*.  
 LEV<sup>'</sup>ATOR, *n.* Generic name of muscles that elevate; as, *levator palpebræ*, lifter of the eyelid.  
 LIG<sup>'</sup>AMENT, *n.* Fibrous band or sheet binding bones or other structures together.  
 LIGAMEN<sup>'</sup>TUM NU<sup>'</sup>CHE, *n.* A particular strong elastic ligament along the nape and cervix of many animals.  
 LIGAMEN<sup>'</sup>TUM TE<sup>'</sup>RES, *n.* A particular strong fibrous cord holding the head of the femur in its socket.  
 LIM<sup>'</sup>BATE, *a.* Having edging of one color against another.  
 LI<sup>'</sup>MES FACIA<sup>'</sup>LIS, *n.* Facial outline; line of the feathers all around the bill.  
 LIMICO<sup>'</sup>LE, *n. pl.* A group of shore-waders, as plover, snipe, etc.  
 LIMB<sup>'</sup>OLINE, *a.* Shore-inhabiting.  
 LIN<sup>'</sup>FAR, *a.* Narrow, with straight parallel sides; uniformly narrow for a long distance.  
 LIN<sup>'</sup>GUA, *n.* Tongue.  
 LINIS<sup>'</sup>CI, *n. pl.* Reticulations of the podotheca. (Little used.)  
 LIV<sup>'</sup>ER, *n.* See GLAND.  
 LO<sup>'</sup>BATE, } *a.* Furnished with membranous flaps  
 LOBED, } (said chiefly of *tuces*). See LOMATINUS. (137.)  
 LOBE, *n.* Membranous flap (generally curved, but may be straight-edged). See LOMA.  
 LO<sup>'</sup>MA, *n.* Lobe; membranous fringe or flap. (135.)  
 LOMAT<sup>'</sup>INUS, *a.* Furnished with lobes or flaps. (134.)  
 LONG-EXSERT<sup>'</sup>ED, *a.* Said of tail-feathers abruptly much longer than the rest.  
 LONGIPEN<sup>'</sup>NES, *n. pl.* A group of long-winged swimming-birds, the gulls, terns, and petrels.  
 LONGIPEN<sup>'</sup>NINE, *a.* Having long wings (reaching, when folded, beyond the tail).  
 LONGIROS<sup>'</sup>TRAL, *a.* Having a long bill (longer than the head).  
 LONGIROS<sup>'</sup>TRES, *n. pl.* An obsolete group of long-billed wading birds.  
 LONGIS<sup>'</sup>SIMUS, *a. for n.* A certain muscle of the back.  
 LONGITU<sup>'</sup>DINAL, *a.* Running lengthwise, or in direction of the antero-posterior axis of the body.  
 LONGUS COL<sup>'</sup>LI. A certain muscle of the neck.  
 LO<sup>'</sup>RAL, *a.* Pertaining to the lore.  
 LORE, } *n.* Space between eye and bill. (39.)  
 LO<sup>'</sup>RUM, }  
 LOWER BACK. (59.) See TERGUM.  
 LOWER JAW. LOWER MANDIBLE. (11.) See MANDIBLE.  
 LOWER PARTS. (6.) See GASTRÆUM.  
 LOWER WING-COVERTS. (85.) See TECTRICES.  
 LOWER TAIL-COVERTS. See CALYPTERIA, CRIS-SUM, TECTRICES.  
 LUM<sup>'</sup>BAR, *a.* Pertaining to, or situate in, the loins. In birds, a *lumbar* region or *lumbar* vertebræ are not well distinguished, if at all; and in many, rib-bearing vertebræ continue into the sacral region.  
 LUMERIC<sup>'</sup>IFORM, *a.* Same as VERMIFORM (which see).  
 LU<sup>'</sup>NCULATE, *a.* Narrowly crescentic.  
 LU<sup>'</sup>TEOUS, *a.* Clay-colored.  
 LYMPHAT<sup>'</sup>IC, *a. or n.* Pertaining to lymph; an absorbent vessel.  
 LY<sup>'</sup>RATE, *a.* Lyre-shaped, as the tail of *M-nura superba* or *T-tricus tetriv*.

## M.

- MAC<sup>'</sup>ERATED, *a.* Soaked to softness.  
 MAC<sup>'</sup>ULA, *n.* A spot.  
 MAC<sup>'</sup>ULATE, *a.* Spotted.  
 MAC<sup>'</sup>NUM, *a. for n.* One of the carpal bones.  
 MA<sup>'</sup>LA, *n.* Basal portion of outside of lower jaw, usually feathered. (Sometimes used for corresponding portion of upper jaw; the site and boundary of *mala* and *gena* are not well determined, and vary with writers. Both lie on side of head, back of bill, and under lore, eye, and ear.) (26.)  
 MA<sup>'</sup>LAR RE<sup>'</sup>GION. Same as *mala*.  
 MALLEO<sup>'</sup>LUS, *n.*; *pl. malleoli*. The enlarged articular surface of the bottom of the tibia; in birds formed by confluence of the two proximal tarsal ossicles.  
 MAL<sup>'</sup>LEUS, *n.* A bone of the inner ear of mammalia, held by high authority as probably homologous with the Os QUADRATUM (which see).  
 MAM<sup>'</sup>MA, *n.* Teat.  
 MAM<sup>'</sup>MARY, *a.* Pertaining to the teats, or function of lactation.



MANDIBLE, } *n.* Jaw. Properly the *under*  
MANDIBULA, } jaw, the upper jaw being *maxilla*. (11.)

MANDIBULAR, *a.* Pertaining to the under jaw. (*Mandibula* relates to the upper jaw.)

MANDUCATION, *a.* Mastication.

MANDUCATORY, *a.* Pertaining to mastication.

MANTLE, *n.* (61.) See STRAGULUM and PALIUM.

MANUBRIUM STERNI, *n.* (Literally "handle.") Process of breast-bone on front border at root of keel.

MANUS, *n.* Hand; all of the wing, excepting the feathers, which lies beyond the wrist; the metacarpus and digits, with associate soft parts. It corresponds with *pes*.

MARBLING, *n.* Fine spotting and streaking intermixed; variegation like marble. The markings are more distinct than in clouding or *chabaton*.

MARGINAL FRINGE, *n.* See LOMA. (135.)

MARGO, *n.* Margin. *Margo mentalis*, inner boundary of the forks of the mandible. *Margo malaris*, boundary of the base of the mala.

MARSUPIUM, *n.* Vascular, erectile, membranous organ in the back chamber of the eye of birds, supposed to aid in accommodation of vision. Also called *pecten*.

MASSETER, *n.* One of the muscles that effect mastication.

MAS'TAX, *n.* "Side of the forepart of head, adjacent to the base of the bill." (37.) (Little used, and undistinguished from *lore*.)

MAS'TOID, *a.* Name of a process of the temporal bone.

MA'TRIX, *n.* Mould. Tissue or organ containing something and determining its form or other condition.

MAXILLA, *n.* Jaw, especially the upper jaw, or *maxilla superior*; the *maxilla inferior* being especially called *mandibula*. (10.)

MAXILLAR, MAXILLARY, *a.* Pertaining to the upper jaw. *Maxillary bone*, the cheek-bone; in birds an inconsiderable bone of the bill itself, not of the cheek.

MAXILLO-PALATINE (bone), *n.* Certain paired bone of the upper jaw in the palate.

MEA'TUS, *n.* Passage or canal. *Meatus auditorius*, ear-passage.

ME'DIAN, *a.* Lying in the middle line. Opposed to *lateral*.

MEDIASTI'NUM, *n.* One of the thoracic partitions.

MEDUL'LA, *n.* Marrow. *Medulla spinalis*, spinal cord. *Medulla oblongata*, tract of nerve matter between cerebellum and spinal cord proper.

MEL'ANISM, *n.* State of coloration resulting from excess of black or dark pigment; a frequent condition of hawks.

MELANIS'TIC, } *a.* Affected with melanism.

MELANOTIC, }

MEMBRANA PUTAMINIS, *n.* The lining membrane of the egg-shell, formed of dense modified albumen.

MEMBRANE, *n.* Thin soft sheet of various structure covering a part or organ. *Cerebral* or *spinal membrane*. See MENINGES. *Neti-*

*tating membrane*, the third or inner eyelid of birds, which sweeps across the ball. \* Soft skinny covering of the bill of many birds is said to be *membranous*. Webbing of the toes is the interdigital *membrane*. *Loma* is a fringed *membrane*.

MEMBRUM, *n.*; *pl. membra*. Any limb, or other peripheral part, as a bill, as distinguished from body proper or *truncus*.

MENIN'GES, *n. pl.* Envelopes of the brain or spinal cord; especially the *dura mater* and *pia mater*. (The singular, *meninx*, is scarcely used.)

MENTAL, *a.* Pertaining to the chin.

MEN'RUM, *n.* Chin; soft parts between the branches of the lower jaw.

MESENCEPH'ALON, *n.* A certain brain-tract, the second from behind.

MESENTERIC, *a.* Pertaining to the mesentery.

MES'ENTERY, *n.* A fold of the peritoneum binding the intestines in place.

MESERY'IC, *a.* Same as MESENTERIC (which see).

ME'SIAL, *a.* In the middle; same as *median*.

MESO- (*or composition*). Middle; median.

MESOMET'RUM, *n.* Partially muscular peritoneal fold supporting the oviduct.

MESORHINI'UM, *n.* Portion of bill between the nostrils. (Little used.)

MESOSTERNUM, *n.* Middle segment of the breast-bone.

METACAR'PAL, *a. or n.* Pertaining to the metacarpus; particularly the *metacarpal* bone.

METACARPUS, *n.* Hand, exclusive of the fingers; segment of the wing between the carpus and the digits.

METAGNATH'OUS, *a.* Cross-billed; having the points of the mandibles passing each other on the right and left.

METATAR'SAL, *a.* Pertaining to the metatarsus; particularly the *metatarsal* bone.

METATAR'SUS, *n.* Foot, exclusive of the toes; segment of the leg between the tarsus and the digits, commonly called the *shank*, and in descriptive ornithology usually known as the *tarsus*. The metatarsus, however, has a distal tarsal ossicle confluent with it, so that it is actually *tarso-metatarsus*. In birds, the metatarsus proper (exclusive of the confluent tarsal bone) consists of three parallel metatarsal bones, more or less completely confluent, and of the associated *accessory metatarsal* bone which bears the hallux. Compare TARSUS.

METATAR'SUS HAL'LUCIS, *n.* The accessory metatarsal bone, as just said.

MID'DLE TOE, *n.* The third toe in order of reckoning, with few exceptions four-jointed. When the fourth toe is reversed, as in all zygodactyle birds except trogons, it becomes the *outer* anterior toe; in trogons, and a few birds in which the true inner or second toe is wanting, it becomes the *inner* anterior toe. It is never visible. It rarely has only three joints, like the second toe. (128.)

MIDDLE WING COVERTS, or ME'DIAN COVERTS. The series of upper coverts of the secondary set, situate in one or more rows between the greater and lesser coverts. They are usually recognized by their overlapping each other

- in the reverse direction (i. e. inner border of one overlapping outer border of the next one) from the others, whence they are sometimes called *ectodermic processes*. (24.)
- MIGRA'TION, *n.* Periodical (but sometimes irregular) journeyings, or change of abode, of birds at certain seasons, to secure food, climate, or other physical conditions of environment best suited to their wants. Migration is generally meridional (north-south), and believed by some to be mainly accomplished along a magnetic meridian; but it is often quite otherwise, influenced by topography, etc., or altogether capricious. In the Northern Hemisphere, the vernal migration is northward, the autumnal in the opposite direction.
- MIME'SIS, *n.* Mimicry; mocking; simulated resemblance in voice, shape, color, etc.
- MIMER'IC, *a.* Imitative; given to mimicry. *Mimetic analogy*, simulated resemblance in superficial respects, such as many insects bear to the twigs or leaves they rest upon.
- MIR'ROIR, *a.* See SPECULUM. (82.)
- MOLECULE, *n.* Embryo part of the impregnated ovum. See OOTYPICULEM.
- MOUL'DPOSE, *a.* Softly downy.
- MONOCLAMOUS, *a.* Feeding; feeding with a single one of the opposite sex. Birds of which the male assists in incubation and care of the young are called *doubly monogamous*.
- MONOG'AMY, *n.* The paired state.
- MONOMORPHIC, *a.* Of the same or essentially similar type of structure. Opposed to *polymorphic*.
- MONOTO'KOUS, *a.* Uniparous; laying a single egg.
- MON'STER, *n.* Any malformed animal.
- MORPHOL'OGY, *n.* The science of form. The doctrine of the laws of form. Structure itself, considered as to its principles; e. g. the *morphology* of the odontoid process of the axis is centrum of the atlas, the *morphological* interpretation of the tibial condyles is tarsal ossicles. The segment called metatarsus is, *morphologically*, tarso-metatarsus. Homology rests upon morphology; analogy is generally predicable upon teleology.
- MOR'SUS DIABOL'ICUS, *n.* An epithet of the infundibuliform orifice of the oviduct which takes in the ova.
- MUCIP'AROUS, *a.* Producing mucus.
- MUCOUS MEM'BRANE, *n.* Lining of the alimentary and other interior tracts of the body, secreting mucus.
- MUCRO, *n.* A sharp spine.
- MUCRONATE, *a.* Spine-tipped, as the tail of a swift.
- MUCUS, *n.* Peculiar secretion of the mucous membrane.
- MULTIP'IDUS, *a.* for *n.* A certain spinal muscle.
- MULTIP'AROUS, *a.* Producing many young.
- MUS'CLE, *n.* (*musculus*, pl. *musculi*.) Organ of animal motion, consisting of contractile fibre, the shortening of which draws upon attached parts. With the muscular tissue is usually associated a fibrous ligament, the tendon or "leader." Voluntary muscles have striped fibre, contracting at will of the animal; such are all those of the general system, moving the bones, effecting locomotion, mastication, etc. Involuntary muscles mostly have plain fibre contractile under special stimuli without obedience to the will; such are those of the intestines, etc.
- MUSCULAR, *a.* Pertaining to muscle; having muscle or composed of muscle; resulting from muscle: as, *muscular fibre*, *muscular organ*, *muscular exertion*. Also, strong, vigorous: the falcon is a *muscular* bird.
- MU'TICUS, *a.* Unarmed; as, a toe without a claw, an unspurred tarsus. (133.)
- MYE'LINGE'ATION, *a.* Whole cerebro-spinal column.
- MY'ELON, *n.* The spinal cord.
- MYOLEM'MA, *n.* Sheath of muscular fibre.
- MYOL'OGY, *n.* Doctrine or description of the muscles.
- MYX'A, *n.* End of the mandible, as far as the symphysis, corresponding to the dertrum of the maxilla. (25.)

## N.

- NAN'US, *a.* or *n.* Dwarf; pigmy.
- NAR'IS, *a.* (49.) See NUCHA.
- NAR'IS, *n.*; pl. *nares*. Nostril (always paired). (283.) The *external nares* open upon the bill, or its cere, in very various shape and position; the *internal nares* open slit-wise upon the back part of the palate.
- NA'SAL, *a.* Pertaining to the nostrils. *Nasal bones*, a pair at the root of the upper mandible.
- NAS'CENT, *a.* About being born; beginning to grow or exist.
- NATA'TION, *n.* Act of swimming.
- NATATO'RES, *n.* pl. A group of swimming-birds.
- NATATO'RIAL, *a.* Capable of swimming; belonging to swimming-birds.
- NEARC'TIC, *a.* Indigenous to the northern portion of the Western Hemisphere.
- NEBULA'TED, *a.* Clouded with various indistinct colors.
- NECK, *n.* (47.) See COLLUM.
- NEOG'E'AN, *n.* Indigenous to the Western Hemisphere or "New World."
- NEOS'SINE, *n.* Substance of the "edible birds'-nests."
- NEOSSOL'OGY, *n.* Study of young birds.
- NEOTROP'ICAL, *a.* Indigenous to the tropical portion of the Western Hemisphere.
- NER'VINE, *n.* Nerve substance.
- NEU'RAL, *a.* Pertaining to nerves. *Neural canal*, the tube of the backbone. *Neural spine*, the so-called spinous process of a vertebra. *Neural axis*, cerebro-spinal axis. *Neural arch*, see NEURAPOPHYSIS.
- NEURAPOPHYSIS, *n.* The laminate process of a vertebra, which, meeting its fellow at the neural spine, closes the canal for transmission of the spinal cord.
- NEURILEM'MA, *n.* Sheath of nerve fibre.
- NEUROLOGY, *n.* Study of the nerves.
- NICTITATING MEM'BRANE, *n.* The third or inner eyelid of birds.
- NIDIFICA'TION, *n.* Nest-building; mode of nesting.

NIDUS, *n.* Nest.

NISUS FORMATIVUS, *n.* The formative tendency; the unknown law which determines the rudiment of an animal to take its proper shape, "each after its kind." "Plastic force."

NOBILIS, *adj.* A swelling; hence, a point, as NOBILIS, *n.* bones usually enlarge at their articulating extremities. Compare INTERNOBILIS.

NOMENCLATURE, *n.* The sum of the words or terms peculiar to any department of knowledge; as, ornithological *nomenclature*, in this sense equivalent to *terminology*. Also, the naming of objects according to some fixed principle; as, the binomial *nomenclature*. It is essential to the integrity of nomenclature that it should rest upon classification, or *taxonomy*.

NON-. NOT. A frequent prefix in scientific literature, denoting negation, used much like *dis-*, *anti-*, *contra-*, etc.

NOTIBILIS, *adj.* (28½.) See NARIS.

NOTIUM, *n.* The entire upper part of a bird. (5.)

NOTHA, *a.* Spurious. By *ala notha* has been meant the scapular, axillar, and tertiary feathers collectively, which are also called *parapteron*.

NOTOCHORD, *n.* Primitive condition of the backbone.

NUCHA, *n.* Nape; upper part of cervix, next to occiput. (49.)

NUCHAL, *a.* Pertaining to the nape.

NUCLEATED, *a.* Containing a special cell or cells.

NUCLEOLUS, *n.* Cell or point within a nucleus.

NUCLEUS, *n.* Special cell within another.

NUTRIENT, *a.* Nourishing; nutritious.

NUTRITION, *n.* Repair of waste that ensues by decomposition in animal life, and promotion of growth, with supply of new assimilable material. Alimentation is the act of supply; aliment or nutriment the supply; nutrition the result of its assimilation.

## O.

OARED (*foot*), *a.* Having the hind toe, as well as the others, full-webbed. See STEGANOPODOUS. (140.)

OBCORDATE, *a.* Inversely heart-shaped.

OBLIQUE, *a.* Indirect; aslant. Also, name of certain abdominal muscles.

OBLONG, *a.* Longer than broad.

OB OVATE, *a.* Inversely ovate.

OBSCURE, *a.* Dark; not evident; little known; faintly marked.

OBSOLETE, *a.* Disused; little used. Also, synonymous with *obscure*, as *obsolete spots*; also, synonymous with *imperfect* or *rudimentary*; the hind toe of the petrel is *obsoletus*.

OBTURATOR, *n.* A muscle, membrane, and foramen of the pelvis are respectively so called.

OBUS, *a.* Blunt. Opposed to *acutus*.

OCCIPITAL, *a.* or *n.* Pertaining to the hind-head; as, *occipital bone*, *occipital region*.

OCCIPUT, *n.* The hind head. (33.)

OCELLUS, *n.* (Literally "little eye.") Distinct rounded spot of color, like the "eyes" of a peacock's tail.

OLIVACEUS, OLIVACEOUS, *a.* Color of yellow olive.

OLIVACEUS, *a.* Rooted. See BOCARD and UNGULA.

OCULO-MOTOR, *n.* A nerve of the eye-muscles.

OPTILUS, *a.* Eye. (The adjective *ocular* being applied chiefly to processes and results of sight, much like *visual*, rather than to physical attributes, the word *orbital* is used for the latter instead.)

ODONTOID (*process*), *a.* A part of the axis (second cervical vertebra) is so called.

ESOPHAGUS, *n.* Gullet; tube conveying food from mouth to stomach.

OLECRANON, *n.* Upper back part of the ulna, not prominent in birds.

OLFACATORY, *a.* Pertaining to the sense of smell.

OLIGOMYOID, *a.* Having few or imperfect syringeal muscles among *Passeres*.

OLIGOTOXOUS, *a.* Producing few young.

OLIVACEOUS, *a.* Of a mixed green and brown color.

OMNIVOROUS, *a.* Eating anything; feeding indiscriminately.

OMOPATE, *n.* Shoulder-blade. (*Omo-*, in composition, is a prefix referring to the shoulder.)

OMPHALON, *n.* Same as *umbilicus*, navel.

OÖLOGICAL, *a.* Pertaining to oölogy.

OÖLOGY, *n.* Science of birds' eggs.

OPERCULUM, *n.* Lid or cover; flap. The nasal scale, or roofing of the external nostrils, is the *operculum naris*.

OPHTHALMIC, *a.* Pertaining to the eye. *Ophthalmic* region is equivalent to orbital region.

OPTIC, *a.* Pertaining to the eye, or to the sight. The optic nerve issues from the brain and spreads into the retina.

ORAL, *a.* Pertaining to the mouth.

ORBICULAR, *a.* Circular.

ORBIT, *n.* Eye-socket. Also, synonymous with *orbita*.

ORBITA, *n.* Circumorbital region taken immediately around the eye-opening. (41.)

ORBITAL, *a.* Pertaining to the orbit.

ORBITO-SPHENOID, *n.* Part of the sphenoid bone, forming a portion of the orbit.

ORDER, *n.* In classification, a group between family and class.

ORDINAL, *a.* Having the taxonomic rank or value of an order.

ORGAN, *n.* Any individual part, or system of parts, of the body having a specific physiological function, considered with reference to its action, processes, or results. Eye, *organ* of sight; wing, *organ* of flight; stomach, liver, *organs* of digestion; muscles collectively, *organs* of locomotion.

ORGANISM, *n.* Any living body capable of separate existence.

ORGASM, *n.* Immoderate excitement; said chiefly of sexual excitement, of which the *orgasm* is the height. Erethism.

ORNITHIC, *a.* Pertaining to birds.

ORNITHOCOPROLITE, *n.* Fossil bird-dung.

ORNITHOLOGY, *n.* Science of birds.

ORNITHOTOMY, *n.* Anatomy of birds.

OS, *n.*; gen. *ossis*; pl. *ossa*. Mouth. *Cavum oris*, cavity of the mouth.

OS, *n.*; gen. *ossis*; pl. *ossa*. Bone. Many or more names of individual bones are adjectives, used substantively, *os* or *bone* being under-



- stood; as, *liquid* or *homodes, liquid* (bone) or (as) *homodes*, etc. The *quadrato* bone of os *quadratum* is, as to its physical characters and office, not found in animals above birds; it hinges the lower jaw, pterygoid, and malar bones to the rest of the skull. It is regarded as the homologue of the mammalian *os* by some, by others as probably homologous with the mammalian *malleus*.
- OS/CINE, *a.* Musical; capable of singing.
- OS/CINES, *n. pl.* A group of singing-birds, possessing a complex vocal organ of numerous syringeal muscles, conferring musical ability. These are regarded as the highest or most perfectly developed of their class.
- OS/SEOUS, *a.* Bony.
- OS/SICLE, *n.* A small bone.
- OSSIF'IC, *a.* Bony; rather, having power to ossify.
- OS/SIFIED, *a.* Become bony; united by bone.
- OS/SIFY. To form bone; to change into bone.
- OSTEOLOG'ICAL, *a.* Pertaining to osteology.
- OSTEOLOGY, *a.* A description of bones. Also used to denote the osseous system, as myology, neurology, splanchnology, likewise are for their respective systems.
- OS'TIUM, *n.* Doorway; entrance.
- O/TIC, *a.* Pertaining to the ear.
- O/TOCRANE, *n.* "Skull of the ear"; cavity containing essential organs of hearing.
- OUTER COVERING. (142.) See INDUMENTUM and PTILOSIS.
- OUTER WEB (of a feather). (150.) See POGONIUM EXTENSUM.
- O'VAL, *a.* Egg-shaped; in a general sense.
- O'VATE, *a.* oblong and curvilinear. Distinctions which may subsist between
- O'VOID, *a.* these words are practically ignored among oölogical writers, who use them interchangeably for the oblong curvilinear shape when the curve is unequal at the opposite ends; the terms *elliptical, ellipsoidal*, being generally used to denote a curve equal at both ends. The transverse contour-line of an egg being always circular, the descriptive terms refer to the lengthwise contour, considered either as of a surface or a solid.
- O'VARIUM, *n.*; *pl. ovaria*, *a.* Organ or tissue
- O'VARY, *n.*; *pl. ovaries*, *a.* in which eggs originate; they subsequently acquire albuminous deposit, and, in birds, a calcareous shell, in the oviduct.
- O'VIDUCT, *n.* Tube conveying eggs from ovary to cloaca.
- O'VIP'AROUS, *a.* Producing eggs which are developed after exclusion from the body. Opposed to *viviparous*.
- OVIPOSITION, *n.* Act of laying eggs.
- O'VISAC, *n.* Ovarian cavity in which an egg originates. Graafian vesicle.
- OVULA'TION, *n.* Formation of eggs in, and discharge from, the ovary.
- O'VUM, *n.*; *pl. ova*. Egg. Sometimes synonymous with *embryo*.
- P.
- PAB'ULUM, *n.* Food; nourishment; aliment.
- PADS. (123.) See TYLARI.
- PALÆARC'TIC, *a.* Indigenous to the northern parts of the Eastern Hemisphere.
- PALÆOGÆ'AN, *a.* Indigenous to the Eastern Hemisphere, or "Old World."
- PALÆORNITHOL'OGY, *n.* Science of fossil birds.
- PAL'AMA, *n.* Webbing between the toes. (138.)
- PAL'ATAL, *a.* Pertaining to the palate; *pala-*
- PAL'ATINE, *a.* *tine* is said especially of certain bones.
- PAL'ATE, *n.* Roof of mouth.
- PAL'ATUM, *n.* The palate.
- PAL'EA, *n.* Fleishy pendulous skin of the chin or throat; dewlap.
- PAL'ITIUM, *n.* Same as STRAGUTUM (which see).
- PAL/MAR, *a.* Pertaining to the under surface of the pinion.
- PAL/MATE, *a.* Web-footed; having the anterior toes full-webbed. Compare SEMIPALMATE and TOTIPALMATE.
- PAL/MATE FOOT. (139.)
- PAL'PEBRA, *n.* Eyelid.
- PAL'PEBRAL, *a.* Pertaining to the eyelids.
- PAL'PEBRATE, *a.* Having eyelids.
- PALU'DICOLE, *a.* Marsh-inhabiting.
- PAN'CREAS, *n.* A lobulated gland near the stomach, the secretion of which poured into the duodenum aids digestion by making an emulsion of fat.
- PANCREAT'IC, *a.* Pertaining to the pancreas; as, *pancreatic* fluid.
- PAPIL'LA, *n.* Small fleshy nipple-like prominence.
- PAP'ILLATE, *a.* Having *papille*.
- PAP'ILLOSE, *a.*
- PAP'ULÆ, *n. pl.* Pimples.
- PAP'ULOUS, *a.* Pimply.
- PARADAC'TYLIUM, *n.* Side of the toes, in any way distinguished from top or sole. (119.) (Little used.)
- PARAGNATH'OUS, *a.* Having both mandibles of equal length, their tips meeting.
- PARAPOPH'YSIS, *n.* Certain lateral process of a vertebra.
- PARAP'TERUM, *n.* Of uncertain meaning, but has been applied to the scapular region or its feathers. (Little used.)
- PARASIT'IC, *a.* Habitually making use of other birds' nests.
- PARATAR'SIUM, *n.* Side of the tarsus, in any way distinguished. (105.) (Little used.)
- PARATO'NIUM, *n.* Side of upper mandible when distinguished from the culmen. (Little used.)
- PARATCHE'NIUM, *n.* Side of neck. (54.) (Little used.)
- PAREN'CHYMA, *n.* Essential substance of a *viscus*.
- PARI'ETAL (bones), *a.* for *n.* Expanded bones forming part of the cranium.
- PARI'ETES, *n.* Wall.
- PAROCCIP'ITAL, *a.* for *n.* Certain lateral elements of the occipital bone.
- PAROT'IC, *a.* About the ear. (45.)
- PAROT'ID, *a.* or *n.* Pertaining to the ear. Especially, a salivary gland situate near the ear.
- PAS'SERES, *n. pl.* A group of birds including sparrows and all the higher birds.
- PAS'SERINE, *a.* Sparrow-like. Belonging to the group of *Passeres*.





- the wing stretched by an elastic tendon from the shoulder to the wrist, rendering the smooth straight anterior border of the wing. (*Plica alaris* is rarely used for the fold or bend of the wing.)
- PLI'CA INTERDIGITALIS, *a.* Webbing between the toes. Same as *plicula*.
- PLI'CE PRIMITI'VE, *n. pl.* Primitive folds; certain parallel lines observed in the early embryonal trace.
- PLU'M, *a.* A feather in general. Compare PENNA and PLUMULA. (1.) A feather of which the two webs are equal and alike is called *isopogonous*; otherwise *anisopogonous*.
- PLU'MAGE, *n.* The feathers, collectively; PTILO-SIS (which see).
- PLU'MBEUS, *a.* Having the color of tarnished lead; dull bluish-gray.
- PLU'MPED, *a.* Having the feet feathered.
- PLU'MOSE, } *a.* Feathery; in general, having  
PLU'MOUS, } feathers; feathered. Compare  
PLUMACEOUS and PLUMULACEOUS.
- PLU'MULA, *n.* A down feather, lacking certain qualities and parts of a *penna*.
- PLUMULACEOUS, *n.* Downy. Compare PENNACEOUS.
- PNEUMAT'IC, *a.* Relating to the respiratory system; permeated with air.
- PNEUMOGASTRIC, *a.* Pertaining to lungs and belly; a name of the most extensive cranial nerve.
- PODARTH'RUM, *n.* Foot-joint; the articulation of the toes collectively with the metatarsus. (100.)
- PO'DIUM, *n.* Foot. (Same as *pes*.) Generally used, however, for the *toes* collectively without the shank. (112.)
- PODOTHE'CA, *n.* Whole envelope of tarsus and toes. (101.)
- POGONIUM, *a.; pl. pogonia.* Web or vane of a feather. (147.) *Pogonium externum*, outer web (farthest from middle line of the body). *Pogonium internum*, inner web. See PLUMA.
- POL'LEX, *n.* Thumb. The joint which bears the alula is so called, though it is homologous with the *index* or second finger. *Spina pollicaris*, or *Tuberculum pollicaris*, the horny spur on the wing of some birds.
- POLYGA'MOUS, *a.* Mating with more than one female, like the domestic cock.
- POLYMO'RPHIC, *n.* Of many forms; consisting of, or containing, several different types of structure: as, a *polymorphic* group.
- POLYMY'OID, *a.* Having numerous syringeal muscles; noting a group equivalent to *Oscines*.
- POLYNO'MIAL, *n. or a.* Name of more than two words. Consisting of several words. The *polynomial* nomenclature is obsolete.
- POLYTO'KOUS, *a.* Multiparous; producing many young.
- PONS, *n.* Bridge. Certain parts of the brain.
- POPLITE'AL, *a.* Pertaining to the back of the knee.
- POR'TAL CIRCULA'TION. Passage of blood from the capillaries of one organ to those of another, as is conspicuous in certain of the digestive viscera.
- POSTAX'IAL, *a.* Situate on the external or posterior (ulnar or fibular) side of a limb.
- POSTERIOR PORTION. (S.) See UREUM.
- POSTERIOR TOE. (125.) The hind-toe, or that one directed backward, is generally the hallux; often also the fourth or outer; rarely the second or inner. The hallux is generally meant by *posterior toe*.
- POSTOR'BITAL, *a.* Situate behind the eye.
- POW'DER-DOWN FEATH'ERS, *n. pl.* Peculiar imperfect feathers, in a matted patch, which grow continually, and as constantly break down, with a scurfy exfoliation, and pervaded with a greasy substance; they are especially conspicuous in the heron tribe, but are also found elsewhere.
- PRÆAX'IAL, *a.* Situate on the internal or anterior (radial or tibial) side of a limb.
- PRÆCO'CES, *n. pl.* An obsolete group of birds, able to run about and feed themselves at birth.
- PRÆCO'CIAL, *n.* Belonging to the *Præcoces*; having the nature of *Præcoces*.
- PRÆPEC'TUS, *n.* Fore-breast; region of the craw. Not well distinguished from *jugulum*.
- PREMAX'ILLARY (bone), *a.* The foremost and principal bone of the upper jaw. *Intermaxillary* is synonymous.
- PREP'TICE, *n.* Foreskin. The homologous structure occurs in some birds. *Preputial*, pertaining to the foreskin.
- PRESSIRO'STRAL, *a.* Having a bill like that of a plover. (Obsolete.)
- PRESTER'NUM, *n.* Anterior segment of the breast-bone.
- PRI'MARY, *n.; pl. primaries.* Any one of the (usually ten, often nine, rarely eleven) large stiff quills growing upon the pinion or hand-bone, as distinguished from the secondaries which grow upon the forearm. They form the tip of the wing, and much of its surface.
- PRI'MARY WING-COVERTS, *n. pl.* Those overlying the bases of the primaries.
- PRO'CES OF PRO'GERI, *a. pl.* Same as RATIFE (which see).
- PRO'GEROUS, *a.* See YOLK.
- PRONA'TION, *n.* A particular movement of the radius upon the ulna, by which the hand turns over, — in birds it is very slight, if it occur at all. The reverse movement is termed *supination*. The muscles effecting it are *pronators* and *supinators*.
- PROŌT'IC, *a. for n.* An element of the auditory capsule.
- PROSENCEPH'ALON, *n.* A certain tract of the brain, the third from behind.
- PRO'TOPLASM, *n.* Primitive common embryonic tissue, out of which different organs and parts are formed.
- PROTOVER'TEBRÆ, *n. pl.* First trace of the backbones.
- PROTRAC'TILE, } *a.* Susceptible of being thrust  
PROTRU'SILE, } forward or out, as the tongue of most woodpeckers.
- PROVENTRIC'ULUS, *n.* Part of gullet, usually enlarged, next to gizzard, having solvent glands for digestion. It is the true *stomach* of a bird, as distinguished from the gizzard or grinding stomach.
- PROX'IMAL, *a.* Proximate; nearest or next to any centre or axis. Opposed to *distal* or *terminal*.
- PSILOPE'DES, *n. pl.* A group of psilopædic

birds, further distinguished by being born weak and helpless, fed and reared in the nest. The term *gynaegeus* is synonymous.

**PSILOPE'DIC**, *a.* Having down growing only from the future pterylæ, as the precursor of the future plumage, which it is subsequently attired for a while, and then falls off.

**PSOAS**, *a.* Name of certain pelvic muscles.

**PTERAPOPH'YSIS**, *n.* Certain process of cranial bones.

**PTER'NA**, *n.* Heel-pod. (115.)

**PTERO'MATA**, *n. pl.* (This word is of uncertain meaning.) (86.)

**PTER'YGOID (bone)**, *n.* A slender bone connecting the quadrate with the palatine.

**PTERYLA**, *n. pl. pterylæ*. Area or tract on the skin where feathers grow.

**PTERYLOG'RAPHY**, *n.* A description of the plumage, especially with reference to the distribution of the feathers on the skin.

**PTERYLO'SIS**, *n.* Plumage, considered with reference to its distribution on the skin.

**PTI'LA**, *n.* (This word is of uncertain meaning.) (86.)

**PTILOPE'DES**, *n. pl.* Ptilopædic birds. Such are generally able to run about at birth, or at least to feed themselves. *Dasypædes* is synonymous.

**PTILOPE'DIC**, *a.* Clothed at birth with floccus, which sprouts not only from the future pterylæ, but also from apteria.

**PTILO'SIS**, *n.* Plumage. (86.)

**PUBIC**, *a.* Pertaining to the pubis.

**PUBIS**, *n.* The most anterior bone of the pelvis. In birds the *ossa pubis* or *pubes* are separate, there being no pubic symphysis, and directed more or less backward.

**PUL'LUS**, *n.* A chick; young bird, before its first complete plumage.

**PUL'MONARY**, *a.* Pertaining to the lungs; relating to respiration.

**PUL'SUS, PULSE**, *n.* Beating of the arteries.

**PUNCTATE**, *a.* Dotted; pitted; studded with points.

**PUNCTUM SA'LIENTS**, *n.* First trace of the embryonic heart.

**PUPIL'LA**, *n.* Central black disc circumscribed by the iris; the pupil (a *hole*, not a substance).

**PUPIL'LARY**, *a.* Pertaining to the pupil.

**PYGOP'ODES**, *n. pl.* A group of birds distinguished by the far backward position, and deep burial, in common integument, of the legs.

**PYGOP'ODOUS**, *a.* Belonging to *Pygopodes*, or having the character of that group.

**PY'GOSTYLE**, *n.* Last coccygeal vertebra, of peculiar size and shape in recent birds; also called the *vomer*.

**PYLOR'IC**, *a.* Pertaining to the pylorus.

**PYLO'RUS**, *n.* Opening from gizzard into duodenum; especially, valve guarding this orifice.

**PYLIFORM**, *a.* Pear-shaped.

## Q.

**QUADRAN'GULAR**, *a.* Four-edged or four-angled.

**QUAD'RATE**, *a.* Squared.

**QUAD'RATE BONE**, *n.* See *Os QUADRATUM*. A peculiarly shaped bone interposed between the lower jaw and the rest of the skull.

**QUADRILAT'ERAL**, *a.* Four-sided.

**QUADRILOC'ULAR**, *a.* Four-chambered, as the heart of higher vertebrates is.

**QUARRY**, *n.* Prey of raptorial birds.

**QUILL**, *n.* See *PENNA*. (2, 75, 76, 145.)

**QUIN'ARY**, *a.* Noting a certain absurd system of classification which presumes that there are five types, or sets of objects, in every natural group.

**QUIN'UNA**, *n.* Set of five, arranged thus, ∴.

## R.

**RA'DIAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the radius.

**RA'DII**, *n. pl.* Barbs of a main feather.

**RA'DII ACCESSO'RII**, *n. pl.* Barbs of the supplementary feather.

**RADIO'LI**, *n. pl.* BARBULES (which see).

**RADIO'LI ACCESSO'RII**, *n. pl.* Barbules of the supplementary feather, aftershaft or hypoptilum.

**RA'DIUS**, *n.* Outer bone of forearm.

**RA'MUS**, *n.*; *pl. rami*. Branch or fork. Gnathidea.

**RAPH'E**, *n.* Line of separation of two parts of an organ when prominent or otherwise distinguished.

**RAPTO'RIAL**, *a.* Pertaining to birds of prey.

**RATI'TÆ**, *n. pl.* Birds with flat sternum, as ostriches, emus or cassowaries, and the apteryx.

**RAUC'OUS**, *a.* Hoarse-voiced.

**RECTRIX**, *n.*; *pl. rectrices*. Quills of the tail. (70.) (The singular is little used.)

**RECTUM**, *n.* Lower straight gut.

**RECTUS**, *a.* Name of certain muscles.

**RECURVED**, *a.* Bent regularly and gradually upward.

**REFLECT'ED**, *a.* Turned backward.

**REFLEC'TION**, *n.* Play of color changing in different lights.

**REG'IMEN**, *n.* Diet.

**RE'GIO, RE'GION**, *n.* Portion of the body in any way distinguished; dorsal *region*; cervical *region*.

**RE'MEX**, *n.*; *pl. remiges*. Quill of the wing. (75, 76.) (Little used in the singular.)

**RE'NAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the kidneys.

**RE'NE**, *n.* Same as *placens*.

**RETICULATE**, *a.* Marked with network of lines.

**RETICULA'TION**, *n.* Network; mosaic.

**RET'INA**, *n.* Expansion of the optic nerve within the eye, upon which images of objects are impressed.

**RETRAC'TILE**, *a.* Susceptible of being drawn back and driven forward as a hawk's claw.

**RETRORSE'**, *a.* Directed backward.

**RHACH'IS**, *a.*; *pl. rhachides*. Scapus exclusive of calamus; shaft of a feather, bearing the webs, without the hollow horny barrel. (146.) Also, the spinal column.

**RHAMPHOTHE'CA**, *n.* Covering of the whole bill. (12.)

**RHI'NAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the nose.

**RHINENCEPH'ALON**, *n.* Foremost tract of the brain, the fourth from behind.

**RHINOTHE'CA**, *n.* Covering of the upper mandible. (13.)



**RHIZONYCH'IUM**, *n.* Terminal bone of a toe bearing a claw. (122.) (Little used.)  
**RHOMBOID**, *a.* Lozenge-shaped. Name of a muscle of the shoulder-blade.  
**RH'TIS**, *n.* Gape of the mouth.  
**RIDGE**, *n.* CULMIN (wh. l. see). (26.)  
**RI'MA**, *n.* Outline of a slit-like opening.  
**RI'MA GLOT'TIDIS**, *n.* Opening of the glottis.  
**RI'MA ORIS**, *n.* Equivalent to COMMISSURE (which see).  
**ROSTRUM**, *n.* Bill; beak; projecting forepart of head of birds; of two jaws, upper and lower, consisting of a frame of certain bones over which is stretched unfeathered skinny or horny membrane, the rhamphotheca. (9.)  
**ROUND'ED (tail)**, *a.* Having the central feathers longest, the rest successively gradually and slightly shorter. A tail is *double-rounded* when, with central feathers shorter than the next, the rest are graduated as before.  
**RU'DIMENT**, *n.* A beginning.  
**RUDIMENTARY**, *a.* Undeveloped; imperfectly elaborated; existing only in its beginnings.  
**RUFF**, *n.* Set of lengthened or otherwise modified or peculiarly colored feathers around the throat or whole neck.  
**RU'GA**, *n.* Ridge or raised fold; wrinkle.  
**RUGOSE/ or RU'GOS**, *a.* Wrinkled.  
**RUMP**, *n.* UROPYGIUM (which see). (60.)

## S.

**SAC'RAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the sacrum.  
**SAC'RUM**, *n.* A compound bone of the spine, composed of several anchylosed vertebrae of the pelvic region, with which the iliac bones are sutured.  
**SAC'RO-COC'CYGEAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the sacrum considered as comprising also several coccygeal vertebrae.  
**SAG'ITTATE**, *a.* Arrow-head shaped; an elongated cordate figure with pointed lobes.  
**SALI'VA**, *n.* Spitte.  
**SALIVARY GLANDS**. Organs secreting saliva.  
**SALTATORY**, *a.* Progressing by leaps. Opposed to *ambulatory* or *gradient*.  
**SAN'GUIS**, *n.* Blood.  
**SAPHE'NA**, *n.* Principal vein of the leg.  
**SARCOLEM'MA**, *n.* Same as *myolemma*.  
**SARTORIUS**, *a.* Name of a certain muscle of the leg.  
**SAUROPSIDA**, *n.* A primary group of vertebrata, comprising birds and reptiles.  
**SAURIRE**, *n. pl.* Name of a certain primary group of *Aves* formed for the reception of the *Archaeopteryx*.  
**SCAB'ROUS**, *a.* Scabby; scurfy; scaly. Said of a surface roughened as if in such manner.  
**SCANSO'RIAL**, *a.* Capable of climbing, as a woodpecker.  
**SCAPHOLUN'AR**, *n.* One of the carpals or wrist-bones.  
**SCAP'ULA**, *n.* Shoulder-blade.  
**SCAP'ULAR**, *a.* Pertaining to the shoulder-blade; as, *scapular* region.  
**SCAP'ULAR**, *n.* Any feather of a series growing on the pteryla humeralis, in an oblique line across the humerus. *Scapulars* is generally said, the plural designating these feathers collectively; they are also called *scapularies*. (80.) The scapulars fill up what would otherwise be an interval between the inner border of the wing and the body. Illiger's word, *parapterum*, seems to designate them, but is also used in an entirely different sense.  
**SCA'PUS**, *n.* Entire stem of a feather; calamus + rhachis. (144.)  
**SCHIZOGNATH'OUS**, *a.* Having the palate bones separated.  
**SCHIZORH'NAL**, *a.* Having the nasal bones separated.  
**SCI'ATIC**, *n.* Same as *ischiatric*; pertaining to the ischia.  
**SCIS'SION**, *n.* A cutting apart; fissuration.  
**SCIS'SOR-SHAPED (tail)**, *a.* Deeply forficat.  
**SCLEROT'IC**, *n.* Dense opaque fibrous membrane forming most of the eyeball.  
**SCUT'LOID**, *a.* Lobed. (137.)  
**SCUT'PAINE**, *a.* Ship-like.  
**SCROTUM**, *n.* Bag holding testicles.  
**SCUTEL'ATE**, *a.* Provided with scutella.  
**SCUTELLATE TARSUS**. (110.)  
**SCUTEL'LUM**, *n.*; *pl. scutella*. Scale. Any one of the divisions into which the podotheca may be broken up by regular lines of impression; especially such divisions when large and in regular vertical series; various smaller divisions being called *reticulations*. *Scutella* occur especially on the anterior face of the tarsus and top of the toes; often also on the back of the tarsus; sometimes they completely encircle the tarsus. When thus large, some ornithologists call them *scuta*; then using *scutella* for the smaller irregular reticulations. *Scutella* are sometimes obsolete. (Commonly, but erroneously, written *scutellae*.) (109.)  
**SCUTIFORM**, *a.* Scalelike.  
**SCUTUM**, *n.*; *pl. scuta*. See SCUTELLUM.  
**SEC'ONDARY COV'ERTS**. The smaller wing-feathers growing from the forearm and its region, overlying the bases of the secondary quills. (89.)  
**SEC'ONDARY QUILLS or SEC'ONDARIES**. Quills growing upon the forearm.  
**SEG'MENT**, *n.* A portion specially distinguished. The tarsus is a *segment* of the leg.  
**SEGMENTA'TION**, *n.* Division into parts. Particularly applied to a process which takes place in the vitellus or yolk during incubation.  
**SEL'LA TUR'CICA**, *n.* A certain part of the sphenoid bone.  
**SE'MEN**, *n.* The male fluid, containing spermatozoa.  
**SEMI- (in composition)**. Half.  
**SEMILUN'AR**, *a.* Crescentic.  
**SEMIMEMBRANOSUS**, *n.* A certain muscle of the thigh.  
**SEM'INAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the male generative fluid.  
**SEMINIF'EROUS**, *a.* Secreting or conveying semen.  
**SEMIPAL'MATE**, *a.* Half webbed; having a basal membrane between the front toes not reaching to their ends.  
**SEM'IPLUME**, *n.* Feather with pennaceous stem and plumulaceous web.  
**SEMITENDINOSUS**, *n.* A certain muscle of the thigh.



- SE<sup>'</sup>NILE**, *a.* Aged; pertaining to old age.
- SENSE**, *n.* Faculty of apprehending external impressions: as, *sense* of sight, hearing.
- SEN<sup>'</sup>SORY**, *a.* Relating to the senses.
- SEPTUM**, *n.* A partition. Same as *Dissepiment*.
- SE<sup>'</sup>TOUS**, *a.* Thin, watery (of fluids).
- SE<sup>'</sup>TRAPE**, *a.* Toothed, like a saw.
- SERR<sup>'</sup>ATUS**, *a.* for *n.* A muscle of the trunk.
- SE<sup>'</sup>TRUM**, *n.* Watery portion of animal fluids, especially of the blood.
- SES<sup>'</sup>AMOID (bone)**, *n.* A small rotund bone situated in the substance of a tendon about a joint.
- SES<sup>'</sup>SILE**, *a.* Seated; i. e. without a stem or peduncle.
- SE<sup>'</sup>TA<sup>'</sup>CEOUS**, *a.* Bristly; bristled.
- SE<sup>'</sup>TE**, *n. pl.* Bristles.
- SE<sup>'</sup>TIFORM**, *a.* Bristle-like.
- SEX<sup>'</sup>UAL**, *a.* Pertaining to sex.
- SEX<sup>'</sup>US**, *n.* Sex.
- SHAFT**, *n.* (146.)
- SHANK**, *n.* Properly, the *shin* or tibial segment of the leg. In case of birds oftener used, but incorrectly, for the tarsus (tarso-metatarsus).
- SHIN**, *n.* (98.)
- SHOULDER**, *n.* (68.)
- SH<sup>'</sup>UANT**, *a.* Hissing.
- SIDE-NECK**, *n.* (64.)
- SIDE OF TARSUS**, *n.* (105.)
- SIDE OF TOES**, *n.* (119.)
- SIG<sup>'</sup>MOID**, *a.* S-shaped. Several parts are so called.
- SIGN**, } *n.* Any character or other arbitrary
- SIG<sup>'</sup>NUM**, } abbreviation of a word or term.
- Prominent among those used in ornithology are: ♂, *male*; ♀, *female*; ○, *juv. young*, *juvenis*; ad., *adult*; hornot., *hornotine*; pull., *pullus*, *chick*; sen. or sr., *senior*, *senex*, *old*; pt., *plumage*; nupt. temp., *in the breeding season*; æst., *summer*; hyem., *winter*; vern., *spring*; aut., *autumnal*; mus., *museum*; coll., *collection*, *cabinet*; syn., *synonym*; =, *equal to*; >, *more than*; <, *less than*; +, *plus*; x, *in a different sense*; v., *vide*, *see*; cf., *confer*, *consult*; i. e. or h. e., *that is*; l. e., *loco citato*, *in the place just cited*; op. cit., *the work cited*; h. l., *hoc loco*, *here*; auct., *auctt.*, *author*, *authors*; script., *writer*; p., *page*; vol. or t., *volume*, *tome*; pl. or tb., *plate*, *tabula*; f., or fig., *figure*; infra, *below* (reference); supra, *above*; qu., *query*; ? , *query*; !, *certainly*, *from autopsy*; err., *error*; corr., *corrigenda*; add., *addenda*; descr., *description*; id., *the same* (person); ib. or ibid., *there* (in the same place); quid? *what* (may it be); sc., *scilicet*, *to wit*; viz., *videlicet*, *namely*; excl., *exclusive of*; n., *nova*, *novum*, *new*; var., *varietà*; sp., *species*; gen., *genus*. Fam., *family*; ord., *order*; n. sp., n. g., *new species*, *genus*. Authors' names are constantly abbreviated, with the first one, two, or three, or other most characteristic letters.
- SINCIP<sup>'</sup>ITAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the *sinciput*.
- SIN<sup>'</sup>CIPUT**, *n.* Anterior half of pileus, from bill to vertex. (32.)
- SINIS<sup>'</sup>TRAD**, *a.* Toward the left.
- SINISTRAL**, *a.* On the left side.
- SIN<sup>'</sup>US**, *n.* Name of numerous and various cavities of the body.
- SKEL<sup>'</sup>ETON**, *n.* Sum of the bones of a body. It generally means only the *endoskeleton* proper, or internal bony framework of the body, as distinguished from *exoskeleton* or *dermoskeleton*.
- SOLE**, *n.* (106.)
- SO<sup>'</sup>LES OF TOES**, *n.* (118.)
- SO<sup>'</sup>LEUS**, *n.* A muscle of the leg.
- SPAT<sup>'</sup>ULATE**, *a.* Spoon-shaped; contracted near the end, where enlarged.
- SPE<sup>'</sup>CIES**, *n.* Aggregate of individuals related by genetic succession without notable change of physical characters.
- SPECIF<sup>'</sup>IC**, *a.* Of, or relating to, a species; as, *specific* name, *specific* character.
- SPEC<sup>'</sup>ULUM**, *n.* Mirror; brightly colored area on the secondaries, especially of ducks.
- SPERM**, *n.* The secretion of the testicles; same as *semen*.
- SPERMAT<sup>'</sup>IC**, *a.* Pertaining to semen, or to the organs concerned in its production and emission.
- SPERMATOZO<sup>'</sup>A**, *n. pl.* Essence of the male seed.
- SPHE<sup>'</sup>NOID (bone)**, *n.* A compound bone of the skull, constituting much of the second cranial segment.
- SPHENOID<sup>'</sup>AL**, *n.* Relating to the sphenoid.
- SPHINC<sup>'</sup>TER**, *n.* An annular muscle constricting or closing a natural orifice; especially, *sphincter ani*.
- SP<sup>'</sup>INAL**, *a.* Relating to the backbone.
- SPINA<sup>'</sup>LIS**, *a.* for *n.* Name of a certain muscle of the back.
- SPI<sup>'</sup>NE**, *n.* Backbone. Also, any sharp projecting point of bone or horn.
- SPINOSE** or **SP<sup>'</sup>INOUS**, *a.* Sometimes said of a mucronate feather.
- SPLANCH<sup>'</sup>NIC**, *a.* Visceral.
- SPLANCHNO<sup>'</sup>LOGY**, *n.* Science or study of the viscera.
- SPLEEN**, *n.* A deep red, soft, spongy, ductless and extremely vascular, abdominal organ of uncertain function.
- SPLE<sup>'</sup>NIAL**, *a.* Name of a certain element of the mandible.
- SPLE<sup>'</sup>NIUS**, *a.* for *n.* A certain cervical muscle.
- SPE<sup>'</sup>R**, *n.* (108.)
- SP<sup>'</sup>ERIOUS**, *a.* False; bastard; imperfect; rudimentary.
- SP<sup>'</sup>ERIOUS QUILL**, *n.* The first primary, when rudimentary or very short.
- SP<sup>'</sup>ERIOUS WING**, *n.* Feathers growing on the so-called thumb of birds.
- SQUAM<sup>'</sup>OUS**, *a.* Scaly.
- STA<sup>'</sup>PES**, *n.* One of the auditory ossicles; the stirrup-bone, becoming the *columella* in *Sauropsida*.
- STEGANOP<sup>'</sup>ODOUS**, *a.* Having all four toes full-webbed. (141.)
- STEL<sup>'</sup>LATE**, *a.* Starred.
- STEM**, *n.* (144.) See *SCAPUS*.
- STER<sup>'</sup>ILE**, *a.* Unfruitful; infecund; barren; noting the condition of the female corresponding to impotence of the male.
- STER<sup>'</sup>NAL**, *a.* Relating to the breast-bone.
- STER<sup>'</sup>NUM**, *n.* Breast-bone.
- STETHI<sup>'</sup>EUM**, *n.* Entire anterior half of a bird. (7.) (Little used.)
- STIG<sup>'</sup>MA**, *n.* See *CALYX*.

STIP'ULA, *n.* Newly sprouted feather.  
 STOMA, *n.* Mouth.  
 STRAG'ULUM, *n.* Mantle; back and folded wings taken together. Same as *pallium*. (61.) (Little used.)  
 STRATUM, *n.* Layer.  
 STREAK, *n.* Lengthwise color-mark; not so strong, firm, or large as *stripe*.  
 STRI'A, *n.*; pl. *striae*. Stripe; streak.  
 STRI'ATE, *a.* Striped; streaked.  
 STRI'DENT, *a.* Shril.  
 STRIG'INE, *a.* Owl-like; belonging to the *Strigidae*.  
 STRIPE, *n.* A long, strong, sharp streak.  
 STRO'MA, *n.* Essential texture of any organ.  
 STRUTHI'US, *a.* Ostrich-like.  
 STY'LOID or STY'LIFORM, *a.* Shaped like a peg or pin.  
 SUB- (*in composition*). Under; less than; not quite; somewhat; slightly so. *Sub-* diminishes the force, point, or extent of application of a term.  
 SUB-BASAL, *a.* Near the base.  
 SUB-CLASS, *n.* An intermediate group often recognized between class and order, of less taxonomic value than the former.  
 SUBCLAVIAN, *a.* Beneath the clavicle.  
 SUBFAM'ILY, *n.* A group between a family and a genus.  
 SUBGENUS, *n.* A group between a genus and a species. (Often used; of extremely indefinite value.)  
 SUBMAX'ILLARY, *a.* or *n.* Under the jaw. Also, equivalent to inferior maxillary or *mandible*.  
 SUBSCAP'ULAR, *a.* or *n.* Under the shoulder-blade; name of a muscle.  
 SUBTYPICAL, *a.* Not quite true to the type; deviating somewhat; slightly aberrant. It expresses a condition between *typical* and *aberrant*.  
 SUBULATE, *a.* Awl-shaped.  
 SUFFRAGO, *n.* The tibio-tarsal joint; the heel-joint. (103.)  
 SUFFUSION, *n.* A "running" shade of color.  
 SUL'CATE, *a.* Grooved or channelled.  
 SUL'CUS, *n.* A groove or channel.  
 SUPER- (*in composition*). Over; above; beyond; more than. The opposite qualification of *sub-*.  
 SUPERCILIARY, *a.* Pertaining to region of eyebrow, as a streak of color over the eye.  
 SUPERCILIUM, *n.* Eyebrow. (43.)  
 SUPER-FAMILY, *n.* A group containing one or more families, yet not of ordinal rank.  
 SUPERFIC'IES, *n.* The exterior in general.  
 SUPERIOR, *a.* Lying over, above, or uppermost.  
 SUPEROCCIP'ITAL, *a.* for *n.* The superior element of the occipital bone.  
 SUPER-OR'DER, *n.* A group containing one or more orders, yet not of the taxonomic rank of a class. (N. B. Super-genus is a word not yet used.)  
 SUPINATOR, *n.* Name of a muscle that effects, or tends to effect, the reverse movement of *pronation* (which see).  
 SUPRA- (*in composition*). Same as *super-*.  
 SUPRACILIARY, *a.* See SUPRAORBITAL.  
 SUPRA-OC'CI'PITAL, *a.* for *n.* Superior element of the occipital bone.  
 SUPRAORBITAL, *a.* Situate over the orbit.

SUPRA-RENAL (*body*), *a.* for *n.* See ADRENAL.  
 SURAN'GULAR, *a.* Name of a certain element of the mandible.  
 SUR'SUM, *Over*; above.  
 SUTURE, *n.* A kind of immovable articulation.  
 SYMBOL, *n.* See SIGN.  
 SYMPATHETIC SYSTEM (*of nerves*). That portion of the nervous system not belonging to the cerebro-spinal axis.  
 SYM'PHYSIS, *n.* A growing together; as, *symphysis pubis*, *symphysis mentalis*.  
 SYNARTHO'SIS, *n.* Same as *suture*.  
 SYNCHONDRO'SIS, *n.* Cartilaginous union or articulation.  
 SYNDACTYLE or SYNDACTYLOUS, *a.* Having two toes immovably coherent for a considerable distance.  
 SYNGNE'SIOUS (*food*), *a.* Same as *syndactyle* foot.  
 SYNONYM, *a.*; pl. *synonyms* or *synonyms*. A different word of the same or similar meaning. *Archaeopteryx mucronatus*, Owen, is a *synonym* of *Arch. lithographica*, Meyer. *Synonym* is the converse of *homonym*, which is the same word, of different meanings. Thus, *Sylvicola*, Swainson, a bird, is a *homonym* of *Sylvicola*, Humphreys, a mollusk. (Also written *synonymus*.)  
 SYNONYMOUS, *a.* Expressing the same meaning in different terms. (*Synonymical* is also written, but rarely.) (Also written *synonymous*.)  
 SYNONYMY, *n.* A collection of synonyms. In this sense, *synonymy* is a burden and a disgrace to ornithology. Also, in the abstract, expression of the same meaning by different words. (Also written *synonymy*.)  
 SYNOVIA, *n.* The peculiar glairy fluid which lubricates joints. So, *synovial* fluid; *synovial* membrane.  
 SYNTHESIS, *n.* Act of putting together this and that fact or observation, whence to deduce a generalization; opposed to *analysis*. Also, merely *composition*.  
 SYRINGEAL, *a.* Pertaining to the lower larynx.  
 SYRINX, *n.* The lower larynx, situate at the bottom of the trachea, at the fork of the bronchi. The vocal organ of birds.  
 SYS'TOLE, *n.* Contraction of the heart, urging on the blood. Opposed to *diastole* (which see).

## T.

TACTILE, *a.* Pertaining to the sense of touch.  
 TAIL, *n.* (69.) See CAUDA.  
 TAIL-COVERTS, *n.* pl. (71.) See CALYPTERIA.  
 TAIL-FEATHERS, *n.* pl. (70.) See RECTRICES.  
 TALUS, *n.* Same as CALCANEUS (which see).  
 TAR'SAL, *a.* Relating to the tarsus, or tarso-metatarsus.  
 TAR'SO-METATAR'SUS, *n.* The morphologically correct term for the segment, commonly called the *tarsus* in descriptive ornithology, — that bone reaching from the tibia to the toes, and which is really nearly all metatarsus, but has at its top one of the small tarsal bones confluent with it, so that in itself it comprehends part of tarsus as well as all of metatarsus.  
 TAR'SUS, *n.* The ankle-bones, collectively. In

- birds, there are no persistently separate tarsal bones, since the two proximal ones are confluent with the continuity of the tibia, forming its so-called tibion, and the distal one anchyloses with the metatarsus, leaving the tarsal joint between them, as in reptiles, not between the tarsal bones and the tibia, as in mammalia. But, in descriptive ornithology, the whole segment between the tibia and the toes, commonly called the shank, is usually called *tarsus*. See, also, TARSO-METATARSUS and METATARSUS. (106.) (N. B. In the foregoing "Explanation," etc., the word *tarsus* is defined as used in descriptions, not in its morphologically correct sense.)
- TAR'SUS, BACK OF. (106.) See PLANTA TARSII.
- TAR'SUS, BOOTED. (111.) See BOOT.
- TAXIDER'MY, *a.* Art of preparing and preserving skins so as to represent the appearance of the living animal.
- TAXONOMY, *a.* Classificatory.
- TAXONOMY, *n.* Classification; rational arrangement according to some scientific principle. *Biology.*
- TEC'TRICES, *n. pl.* Coverts; the smaller feathers, either of wing or tail, but especially of the former; tail-coverts being *calypteria*. (72, 73, 83.)
- TEC'TRICES ALLE, *n. pl.* Wing-coverts.
- TEC'TRICES CAUDE, *n. pl.* Tail-coverts.
- TEC'TRICES INTERIORES, *n. pl.* Under-coverts. (73.)
- TEC'TRICES MEDIAE, *n. pl.* Median upper wing-coverts, of the secondary set.
- TEC'TRICES SUPERIORES, *n. pl.* Upper coverts. (72.)
- TIG'MINA, *n. pl.* Same as *testices*.
- TIG'MINI, *n.* Same as *calypteria*.
- TELEOLOGICAL, *a.* Relating to teleology.
- TELEOL'OGY, *n.* Doctrine of final causes; science of adaptation of means to ends.
- TEM'PES, *n. pl.* (14.) See TEMPORA.
- TEM'PORA, *n. pl.* Temples; portion of sides of head between eyes and ears. (Scarcely used.)
- TEN'DO or TEN'DON, *n.* Fibrous cord or band of attachment of muscle to bone or other parts; a "leader." *Tendo achillis*, hamstring.
- TENUIROSTRAL, *a.* Slender-billed.
- TERATOLOGY, *n.* Science of monsters.
- TE'RES or TE'RETE, *a.* Cylindrical and tapering; fusiform. Also, name of a muscle.
- TER'GUM, *n.* Lower back, between interscapilum and uropygium. (Not well distinguished, and little used.) (59.)
- TER'MINAL, *a.* At the end.
- TERMINOLOGICAL, *a.* Relating to terminology.
- TERMINOLOGY, *n.* Science of calling things by their right names according to some determined principle. *Nomenclature.*
- TER'TIALS, TER'TIALES, *n. pl.* Large inner quills of wing growing from humerus or elbow. The two or three longer inner true secondaries (which see) are often incorrectly called tertials, especially when distinguished by size, shape or color from the rest of the secondaries. (76.)
- TES'TES, *n. pl.* *testes*. Testicles; male organs secreting spermatozoa.
- TETRADACTYLE, *a.* Four-toed.
- THAL'AMUS, *n.* A certain tract of the brain.
- THE'CA, *n.* Sheath.
- THE'NAR, *n.* Thumb; planar.
- THE'ORY, *n.* Scientific speculation. Philosophical explanation. Result of inference from established principles.
- THERMOCENOSIS, *a.* Heat-producing, as all vital processes are.
- THIGH, *n.* Segment of leg between hip and knee. (97.)
- THORACIC, *a.* Pertaining to the chest.
- THO'RAX, *n.* The chest; segment of the body enclosed by ribs, sternum, and certain vertebrae, containing heart and lungs.
- THROAT, *n.* See GULA. (52.)
- THUMB, *n.* In birds, the so-called thumb, upon which the alula, or bastard wing, grows, is homologically the index-finger. Penguins lack this segment.
- THYROIDAL, *a.* An element of the hyoid bone.
- THYROID, *a.* Shield-shaped. Name of principal laryngeal cartilage.
- THYROID CARTILAGE. One of those forming the larynx.
- TIBIA, *n.* Principal and inner bone of leg between knee and heel; the shin-bone.
- TIBIAL, *a.* Pertaining to the tibia.
- TOE, TOES, *n.* (116.)
- TOMIUM, *n. pl.* *tomia*. The cutting edge of the bill. There is a superior or maxillary *tomium*, and an inferior or mandibular *tomium*; each is double (i. e. right and left); together they are the *tomia*, mutually apposed when the mouth is shut.
- TOP OF TOES. (117.) See ACRODACTYLUM.
- TORQUATE, *a.* Ringed; collared.
- TORQUES, *n.* Ring or collar of color or of feathers otherwise distinguished. Lewis's woodpecker has a cervical *torques* both in color and texture of the feathers.
- TOTIPALMATE, *a.* Having all four toes webbed. Same as *steppanopodatus*.
- TRACHEA, *n.* Windpipe.
- TRANSVERSE, *a.* Crosswise; in direction at right angle with longitudinal axis of the body.
- TREAD (of the coal), *n.* Cistriculum; molecule. See YOLK.
- TRI- (in composition). Thrice; treble.
- TRI'CEPS, *n.* A certain extensor muscle of wing and leg.
- TRIDACTYLE, *a.* Three-toed.
- TRIGEM'IMUS, *a. for n.* A certain cranial nerve.
- TRIHE'DRAL, *a.* Three-sided.
- TRIVIAL, *a.* Said of a *specific* name. Opposed to *generic*.
- TROCHAN'TER, *n.* Prominence at top of femur.
- TROCH'LEA, *n.* A pulley; smooth bony surface over which a tendon plays.
- TRUNCATE, *a.* Cut squarely off.
- TRUNCUS, *n.* Trunk; body without its members. (56.)
- TUBERCULUM, *n.* Tubercle; a little lump or elevation.
- TU'NIC, *n.* Enveloping membrane of various organs.
- TU'NICA ALBUGIN'EA, *n.* Dense whitish membranous investment of the testicles.
- TUR'NAL, *n.* Scroll-like; name of certain bones of nasal passages.



TYLAR'I, *n. pl.* Pads under the toes. (123.)  
 TYP'ANTUM, *a. for n.* Same as OS QUADRATUM (which see).

TYP'ANTUM, *n.* Egidium. Also, the naked inflatable masses on the sides of the neck of grouse, an enlargement of the ordinary cervical reservoirs of air which communicate with the bronchi.

TYPE, *n.* Way; plan; mode. Also, sign or symbol. The *type*, or *type of form*, of a group is that which exhibits a given set of characters most perfectly. But the *type* of a genus is usually the species, if any, from which the generic characters were especially drawn up, without reference to such qualification; while, furthermore, the *type* of a species, in current acceptance, is merely the specimen from which the species was originally described, even though it may very inadequately represent such species.

TYP'ICAL, *a.* Of most usual structure; adhering strictly to a given plan of structure. (But compare TYPE.)

## U.

UL'NA, *n.* Inner or posterior bone of forearm.

UL'NAR, *a.* Pertaining to the ulna.

UMBIL'ICAL, *a.* Relating to the umbilicus.

UMBIL'ICATE, *a.* Pitted, as if with an umbilicus.

UMBIL'ICS, *n.* Navel. Pitted scar, indicating point of entrance of placental vessels into the fœtus. Also, any similar pit or depression, as that on the scape of a feather at junction of rachis and calamus.

UNARMED TOE. Toe bearing no claw. See DIGITUS MUTILUS. (123.)

UNIFORM, *a.* Hooked.

UNDER JAW. See MANDIBULUM.

UNDER PARTS. See GASTERUM.

UNDER TAIL-COVERTS. (13.) See CRISNUM.

UNDER WING-COVERTS. (84.) See TECTRICES.

UNDULATION, *n.* Wavy color-marks.

UNGUICULATE, *a.* Clawed.

UNGUIS, *n. pl. ungues.* Claw.

UNIP'AROUS, *a.* Producing but one young. Same as *monotokous*.

UPPER BACK. (58.) See INTERSCAPILIUM.

UPPER JAW. (10.) See MAXILLA.

UPPER PARTS. (5.) See NOBILUM.

UPPER TAIL-COVERTS. (72.) See CALYPTERIA.

UPPER WING-COVERTS. (84.) See TECTRICES.

UR'UM, *n.* Hinder half of a bird. (8.) (Little used.)

UR'E, *n.* A certain component of urine.

UR'ETER, *n.* Tube conveying urine from kidney to cloaca.

UR'THRA, *n.* Groove in penis for direction of the discharge.

U'RINARY BLADDER, *n.* A certain compartment of the cloaca, in some birds, is so named.

U'RINE, *n.* Liquid excretion of the kidneys, in birds voided more or less mixed with the feces.

URO-GEN'ITAL or GEN'ITO-U'RINARY, *a.* Said of organs common to the two offices implied in the words, or of such organs regarded as associate parts.

UROHY'AL, *n.* Median backward process of the hyoid bone.

UROPYGIUM, *n.* Rump. (60.)

UTERUS, *n.* Womb. Wanting in birds; but a lower tract of the oviduct where the eggshell is formed has been loosely so called.

## V.

VACC'ITY, *n.* Deficiency in a part; as, a *vacuity* in the bony palate.

VAGI'NA, *n.* Any sheath, in general. Particularly, the female sexual passage. In birds the lowermost tract of the oviduct is sometimes loosely so called.

VANE, *a.* (151.) See VEXILLUM.

VARIETY, *n.* A nascent species. Practically, the term designates a set of objects incompletely distinguished from others of the same species, by reason of slightness of the difference, or presence of connecting links.

VAS'CULAR, *a.* Permeated with bloodvessels. Also equivalent to *circulatory*; as, the *vascular* system.

VAS DEF'ERENS, *n.* Tube conveying semen from testes to cloaca.

VAS'TUS, *a. for n.* A certain muscle of the thigh.

VEIN, *n.* Vessel conveying blood from the capillaries to the heart. *Artery* carries blood from the heart.

VE'NE CA'VE, *n. pl.* Large veins pouring blood from the system into the heart.

VE'NOUS, *a.* Pertaining to a vein; as, *venous* blood, the *venous* system.

VEN'TER, *n.* Lower belly. (Not well distinguished from *abdomen*, and little used.) (65.)

VEN'TRAD, *a.* Towards the belly.

VEN'TRAL, *a.* Pertaining to the belly.

VEN'TRICLE, *n.* Chamber of the heart, right or left, whence issue the pulmonary arteries and the aorta. Compare AURICLE. Also, a cavity of the cerebrum.

VEN'TRICOUS, *a.* Swollen; bulbous.

VEN'TRIC'ULUS BULBOSUS, *n.* Same as *gubernium*.

VEN'TRIC'ULUS SUCCENTURIA'TUS, *n.* Same as *proventriculus*.

VERMICULATION, *n.* Very fine crosswise marking.

VER'MIFORM, *a.* Shaped like a worm; as, a woodpecker's tongue. LUMBRICIFORM is the same.

VER'NAL, *a.* Relating to the spring.

VERRU'COUS, *a.* Warty.

VER'SATILE, *n.* Reversible; susceptible of turning either way.

VERTEBRA, *n.*; *pl. vertebræ.* Any bone of the spine; any one of the backbones.

VER'TEBRAL, *a.* Pertaining to the backbone.

VERTEBRATE'RIAL (*canal*), *a. for n.* Passage for an artery through several cervical vertebræ.

VER'TEBRATE, *a.* Having a backbone; also, used substantively for an animal with a backbone.

VER'TEX, *n.* Crown; highest central portion of pileus.

VESCIC'ULA SEMINA'LIS, *n.* A structure, imperfect or wanting in birds, for storage of semen.

VESTI'TIS, *a. or n.* Clothed, i. e. feathered. Clothing, i. e. plumage; as, *vestitus nuptialis*, breeding plumage.



VENI/LUM, *n.* Rhachis and web of a feather taken together; all of a feather excepting *calamus*.

VIBRIS'SA, *n.*; pl. *vibrissæ*. Bristly or bristle-tipped feather about the mouth of a bird.

VIT'US, *n.* Food; diet.

VIL'LI, *n. pl.* Soft papulous projections of membrane.

VIS'CERAL, *a.* Pertaining to the viscera.

VIS'CUS, *n.*; pl. *viscera*. Any interior organ of the body, but especially of the digestive system. The stomach is a *viscus*; the intestines are *viscera*.

VIS'US, *n.* Vision; eyesight.

VIT'ELLINI, *a.* Pertaining to the vitellus.

VIT'ELLINE MEM'BRANE, *n.* An envelope of the vitellus.

VITEL'LUS, *n.* YOLK (which see).

VIT'REOUS, *a.* Glassy; said of the humor in the back chamber of the eye.

VIT'RA, *n.* Broad band of color.

VO'MER, *n.* A bone of the skull, lying at the base, in the median line, in advance of the sphenoid. Also, the peculiarly shaped and enlarged last bone of the tail, or pygostyle.

## W.

WASHED, *a.* As if overlaid with a thin layer of different color.

WAT'TLE, *n.* A naked, fleshy, and usually wrinkled and highly colored skin hanging from the chin or throat, as in the cock and turkey.

WEB, *n.* The vane of a feather, on either side of the rhachis.

WEDGE-SHAPED, *a.* See CUNEATE.

WHIS'KED, *a.* Having lengthened or bristly feathers on the cheeks.

WING, *n.* (73.) See ALA.

WING, BEND OF. (77.) See FLEXURA.

WING-COVERS, *n. pl.* (83.) See TEGMINES.

WOLFF'IAN BODIES, *n.* Certain organs of the embryo associated with the uro-genitals.

## X.

XI'PHOID, *a. or n.* Sword-shaped. Posterior prolongation of the sternum.

## Y.

YOLK or YELK, *n.* "Yellow" of an egg; a soft, opaque, yellow globular mass, enveloped in a proper membrane (the vitelline) and suspended in the white by the *chalazæ*. It has a central cavity full of a clear substance, furnished with a duct leading to a mass of cells termed *proterodermis*; adorning to its surface is the *centroblum*, or "tread," which becomes the embryo.

## Z.

ZO'NA PELLUCIDA, *n.* Consolidated membranous envelope of the primitive ovum.

ZOÖLOGY, *n.* Natural history of animals, of which ornithology is one department.

ZYGAPOPH'YSIS, *a.* Articular process of a vertebra.

ZYGODACTYLE, *a.* Yoke-toed; having the toes in pairs, two before and two behind.

ZYGO'MA, *n.* Malar bone and its connections.

ZYGOMAT'IC, *a.* Pertaining to the malar bone.

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" " " " " 222, " " " 3	" " " " " 30, " " " "
" " " " " 222, " " " 4	" " " " " 34, " " " "
" " " " " 214, pl. 37, " 1	" " " " " 38, " " " "
<i>Regulus calendula</i> , I 75, pl. 5, " 9	" " " " " 344, pl. 16, " 8
" " " " " 73, " " " 8	" " " " " 47, " " " 11
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" " " " " " " " " 56, " " " "	" " " " " 14, " " " 4
" " " " " I 322, pl. 16, " 1	" " " " " " " " " 2
" " " " " " " " " 5	" " " " " 316, pl. 43, " 2
<i>Sialia arctica</i> , " 67, pl. 5, " 4	" " " " " 329, " " " 6
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" " " " " " " " " 8	" " " " " 389, " " " 13
" " " " " " " " " 1	" " " " " 387, " " " 12
" " " " " " " " " 2	" " " " " 387, " " " 11
" " " " " " " " " 9	" " " " " 391, " " " 14
" " " " " " " " " 10	" " " " " " " " " "

<i>Vireo vicinior</i> ,	♂	I. 363, pl. 17, fig. 7	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i> ,	♂	III. 379, pl. 58, fig. 3
<i>Vireosylva barbatula</i> ,	♂	" 360, " " 1	<i>Zenaidura carolinensis</i> ,	♂	" 383, " " 2
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<i>olivacea</i> ,	♂	" 363, " " 2	<i>gambeli</i> ,	♂	" 569, pl. 25, " 11
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<i>Xanthocephalus icterocephalus</i> ,			<i>"</i>	♂	" " " 10
♂	II. 167, pl. 32, " 9		<i>querula, (Ad.)</i>	♂	" 577, pl. 26, " 4
" ♀	" " pl. 33, " 9		<i>(autumn)</i>	"	" " " 7
<i>Xanthoura luxuosa</i> ,	"	295, pl. 42, " 1			



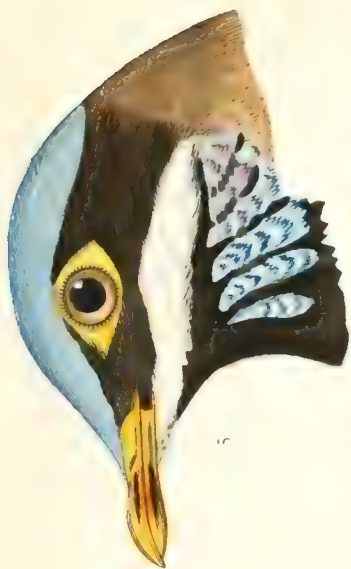
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4. *Columba livia* (Linn.)

5. *Columba livia* (Linn.)  
6. *Columba livia* (Linn.)







3 Zonotrichia querula, ♂, June 1893, 44.  
4 Melospiza fasciata, ♂, March 1893, 44.

1 Zonotrichia querula, ♂, June 1893, 44.  
2 Zonotrichia querula, ♂, June 1893, 44.



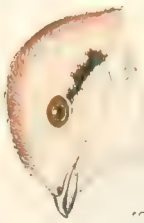
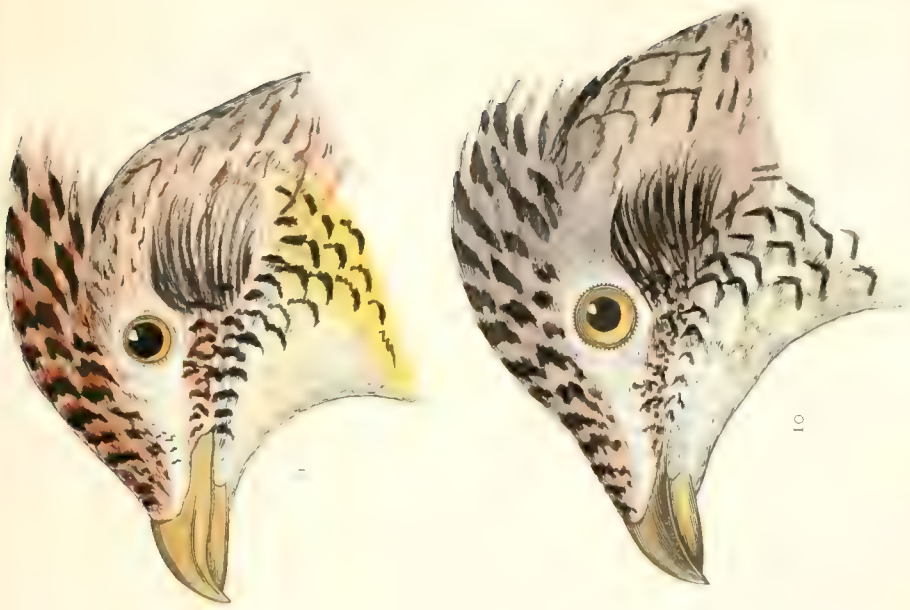












5. *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Merula*  
6. *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Merula*  
7. *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Merula*

1. *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Merula*  
2. *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Merula*  
3. *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Merula*  
4. *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Merula*







5



6



3



4



1



2

*Leucophaea* *leucophaea* *leucophaea*

*Leucophaea* *leucophaea* *leucophaea*

*Leucophaea* *leucophaea* *leucophaea*





1. *ORTYX AFRICANA* 2. *ORTYX AFRICANA*  
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1. *ORTYX AFRICANA* 2. *ORTYX AFRICANA*  
3. *ORTYX AFRICANA* 4. *ORTYX AFRICANA*  
5. *ORTYX AFRICANA* 6. *ORTYX AFRICANA*















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